

23rd February 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back. I hope everyone had a pleasant February half term break, despite the weather!

Ready, Respectful, Safe (All Parents/ Carers)

Over the last eighteen months we have been working really hard in school to improve the overall behaviour and culture within our community. Staff have been engaging in weekly sessions looking at things they can change in their practice for nearly twelve months and we have had lots of external people coming in to review things and give us advice. Just yesterday, the Department for Education Behaviour Hub team visited school to do a review of behaviour and were overwhelmingly positive about the improvements they could see **but** the job is not done yet.

One of the reviews suggested we look at simplifying our values for children, to be clear about what we expect. This week we have begun to launch these new values. In Unity we are Ready, Respectful and Safe. These are simple and easy to remember. The next step will see children having a taught session each week about the expectations and how they link into being ready, respectful and safe. We will share these with you so you can help us by reinforcing the same expectations at home.

For example, it could be that one week we concentrate on 'In Unity we are respectful' and talk to the children about practising saying 'Good Morning' or 'Good Afternoon' to each other and adults around school. You could practise this at home as well! We will include a weekly update in this newsletter so you can see what we are up to.



WE ARE MAKING OUR SCHOOL VALUES EASIER TO UNDERSTAND

Advance Notice (All Parents/ Carers)

In the interest of transparency I wanted to alert parents to the fact that I have been called for jury service commencing on 11th March 2024 for two weeks at Preston Crown Court. Due to restrictions on accessing mobile phones if I am called to serve on a jury, it will potentially make me completely inaccessible for these weeks. I am working with colleagues in school to ensure adequate cover is in place and one of the academy's Deputy Headteachers will act as Acting Headteacher each day of my absence in order to ensure that decisions can be made.

Wow Moments in School this Week (All Parents/ Carers)

The Wow Moments for this week are below. Well done to everyone involved.

- Music was in the air at the start of this week as the National Youth Orchestra (NYO) came into school and did workshops with children along with many children attending a concert on Monday. A particular highlight was members of the NYO (who are all children of school age themselves) visiting classes and filling the corridors and classes with incredibly high quality music.
- As noted above, the Department for Education behaviour hub was in school on Thursday to review behaviour. They were overwhelmingly positive about the conduct and behaviour of our children along with their manners and ability to communicate their thoughts and feelings about school.
- In Year 11 lesson visits when asked which students were excelling so they could get additional tokens for the Battle of the Titans competition, there were so many students that we nearly ran out of tokens.
- Oliver in Year 5 has worked really hard on multiplying a 3 digit number by a 2 digit number this week independently - well done Oliver.
- Tyler R, Jax D, Lily B and Deacon P excelled in their contributions to careers discussions this week with helpful comments and answers.

Uniform (In Unity, We Are Ready) - Leggings and Tracksuit Bottoms (All Parents/ Carers)

Thank you to parents who have ensured that children are not wearing leggings and tracksuit bottoms for school. Parents/ Carers will know that these are not and have never been part of the uniform (other than for PE lessons). If any parent/ carer is having any issue with ensuring their child does not wear leggings or tracksuit bottoms to school and needs any help from us, please contact the Student Support Team at school.

Mobile Phones (In Unity, We Are Respectful) (All Parent/ Carers)

The Government released updated guidance this week about mobile phones which supports our position. The position here has not changed. Mobile phones are not allowed in school. Could parents/ carers please



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remind children of this and where possible, avoid messaging children during the school day as this can cause unnecessary disruption. If you need to get a message to a student urgently, please contact the school office.

Classcharts (All Parents/ Carers)

Parents will remember that I shared details about the move to a new information system in school before the break. The move has gone well in school this week but we have not yet been able to connect the data fully to Classcharts (a separate system). Work is ongoing for this and as soon as we can make it available, we will.

Enrichment and Extra Curricular Clubs (All Parents/ Carers)

The link to access the clubs and activities on offer to children is here. Please take a look and encourage children to attend. If attendance at a club causes an issue in terms of caring responsibilities at home or pick up of siblings and we can help, please contact the student support team at school.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vQd_hr8EUDSqZnSUFclJgbR-MZZNnCOjQGseSZuptgoB5P_IN5i9Upi53x0RIPzvv6MKn5JYXtUmiGS/pubhtml

Online Safety Support for Parents/ Carers (All Parents/ Carers)

We have recently signed up to an online platform that offers online safety videos made specifically for parents/ carers. They are hosted by Myleene Klass and are very short. There is no cost to accessing these.

Click [here](#) to access the link to this week's online safety guide for parents.

You can also sign up for The National College for free and view a wide range of resources and videos to support your family with online safety. To do this follow the link below:

Sign up tutorial video

<https://help.nationalcollege.com/parent-walkthrough>

Sign up for The National College

<https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/unity-academy-blackpool>

Primary Newsletter

Click [here](#) to access the Primary Newsletter.



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And finally...

As part of our continual investment in the school site for children, we are in the process of refurbishing the MUGA. Alongside the 3G pitch, this will bring the level of investment in outdoor spaces for children at Unity to close to £1 million over the last five years. We are really looking forward to children being able to use this space and as a reminder, all our facilities are available for hire in evenings and weekends by local groups. You can click on the banner on the website to do this.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. S. Cooke
Headteacher