



24th May 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed the Great British Summer which we had for the last couple of weeks as the rain has returned in force this week.

Ready, Respectful, Safe (All Parents/ Carers)

Our **behaviour curriculum** continued this week as we focused on '**Thinking before we speak**' in primary. We used the book 'My Mouth is a volcano' by Julia Cook. The children enjoyed listening to it and even up to Year 6, they joined in with the repeated parts of the story when it was shared in assembly. Class teachers have re-read it and have discussed how thinking before we speak shows respectful behaviour towards others as we try to stop ourselves from interrupting when someone is talking! It is a difficult thing to do for young children but we have focused on holding the thought in your head and then taking your turn in the conversation when the other person has finished speaking. After the holidays we will move on to learning about '**Sharing**' using the book 'Elephant learns to share' by Sue Graves and Trevor Dunton. Secondary students have focused on '**turn-taking**' when speaking to others. A culture built on respect starts with how we communicate with each other. Taking turns and not interrupting each other helps us to strengthen relationships by building trust and resolving conflict in a respectful and non-confrontational manner. After the holidays, Secondary students will focus on '**respectful body language**'.

Safeguarding Audit Feedback (All Parents/Carers)

The safety of children is the number one priority of any school. As part of a routine planned set of visits to all Blackpool schools, an intensive safeguarding review took place recently at Unity. Unlike Ofsted reports, we can't share the full report with you (we would happily if we could), so we have included a few highlights below: -

"Children are protected and feel safe"

"There is a culture of vigilance amongst staff"

"The pupils stated staff were present all over school and they could approach them with confidence that they would always listen and support any issues no matter how big or small they may be."

"Children are protected and supported through a variety of pastoral care functions and informed appropriately about any action the adult is taking to share their concerns."

Message from our School Nurse

There have been a number of young people arriving in A&E injured, after not wearing a helmet. Can all parents and carers please encourage their children to wear helmets when taking part in any activities that require one.



National Safeguarding Week (All Parents/ Carers)

This week is National Safeguarding Week and we wanted to take the opportunity to bring to your attention a couple of things that we are seeing as concerns that, as parents, you really need to be aware of so that you can take the necessary action as the actions required are not things that school can do.

Online Gaming and Gaming Videos

We have mentioned this a few times but feel it is important to raise awareness again. We are seeing an increasing number of younger children copying language and actions from online games such as Fortnite and Grand Theft Auto. These games are clearly designed for children (or in some cases adults) who are much older than primary school age. Parents must monitor what children are playing on games consoles carefully and should not allow children to play games with age limits higher than their age.

Increasingly parents tell us that children are watching videos on YouTube of adults playing these games. This is just as bad as playing them and we would strongly suggest that parents check child safety settings on their internet connections.

Helmets and E-Scooters

E-scooters can only be used on private land with the landowner's permission, therefore children cannot travel to and from school on them as it would require them to use them on public land. Children should not come to school on an e-scooter and they cannot be 'locked' up in school.

Linked to this and other transport methods, we have been asked to let parents know that two children have been in intensive care as a result of accidents on bikes/scooters where they have not worn a helmet. If children are arriving to school on bikes or scooters they should be wearing a helmet, this can save them from very serious injury.

We have included some handy tips [click here](#).

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

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

- We have seen some amazing exam pieces from our Y11 students in Photography, Art and Textiles over the last week. Well done to all the students.
- Year 8 has been learning about Somali Pirates in Geography this week, the students have really enjoyed the discussions.
- Our Year 10 PiE groups have completed the presentations for their social action projects - all children spoke in detail about their sessions and they were fantastic.



UNITY ACADEMY BLACKPOOL

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Meal Vouchers (All Parents/ Carers)

The academy has received funding from the local authority to issue meal vouchers for those eligible for free school meals for the upcoming half term. These have begun to be issued, please contact the academy if you need any help with this.

Events in Claremont (All Parents/ Carers)

We are working closely with the local Claremont partnership around a variety of activities that will benefit children in school and the wider community. They have asked us to advertise some events taking place. This link should take you to some local [events](#).

Primary Newsletter (Primary Parents/ Carers)

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

Reporting Bullying/ Pastoral Concerns (All Parents/ Carers)

If you or your child needs to raise any bullying or pastoral concerns with the academy please [click here](#). This link will be turned off today and reinstated after the half term break, this is to ensure that we can deal with things when we return promptly.

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

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/enroll/unity-academy-blackpool>

End of Term (All Parents/Carers)

Just a reminder that the academy closed at the end of the day on the 24th May for one week for half term and will reopen on 3rd June 2024 at the normal time.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. S. Cooke, Headteacher



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