



6th December 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Thank you for your feedback regarding the format of the update, I have made a minor modification to make sure that we are sharing the amazing things happening in school with you each week as well.

What have we been up to this week?

Year 10 have been busy in the kitchen, they have cooked both bread and Christmas cakes this week. Thank you to Sam for letting me try some of his bread, it was amazing to try it warm whilst outside on a cold and wet lunch duty!



We welcomed every primary teacher who teaches children in Years 2-6 from across the whole of FCAT to Unity on Thursday for staff CPD about LBQ - Learning By Questions. Our Y11 prefects were fantastic in helping sign parents in and supporting with car parking. They absolutely demonstrated our core values of ready, respectful and safe.



Year 2 held their Parental Engagement Christmas Sewing session this week. This helps the children tick off some of their Enrichment passports and allows their parents to see the classrooms, meet their children's friends and hear more about what the children are learning so that they can support them at home. I don't know who enjoyed it more, the children

or the parents, but lots of fun was had by all! We place a great value on involving and engaging parents at Unity!

Our Year 7 children have completed their CAT tests this week. CAT stands for Cognitive Ability Tests and is a multiple choice test that is designed to give us as much information as we can to support children in their learning. The Year 7 children have been fantastic, they have shown fantastic resilience and behaviour for learning during the tests.



[New Messages](#)

Christmas Dates (All Parents/ Carers)

Our Christmas calendar will be shared with all parents/carers next week via My Child at School. Key dates are: -

- Primary Panto trips (9th/10th December)
- Blackpool Music Service Christmas Festival (10th December)
- Christmas Jumper Day (17th December)
- Christmas Dinners (Primary - 17th December, Secondary - 17th/18th December)
- Primary (including Nursery) Christmas parties (18th December)
- Non Uniform day for all children (20th December)
- School closes for Christmas at **12:30PM** (20th December)

Primary Pantomime Trips - Monday and Tuesday 9th/10th December

We are really looking forward to taking the primary children to the Pantomime at the Lowther Pavillion on Monday/ Tuesday next week to watch Snow White. We must leave school by 9am and so your child must be in school on time. Seats are booked in advance so there is no opportunity to move your child to the next day if they are late. Please ensure your child is in school on time at 8:40am every day, but especially next week! Thank you



Primary Library

In January, Miss Bailey will be opening our primary library every Wednesday after school for you to come along with your child and borrow a book. The children love visiting the library during school time and I am sure would love the opportunity to take a book home to curl up and share with you. Reading is such an important life skill and filters through every curriculum area so any chance to read can only help and support them. We look forward to seeing you there!

Non Uniform Day - 20th December (All Parents/ Carers)

As usual for the end of the Christmas term, there will be a non uniform day on the last day of term (20th December) for all students. There is no charge for this.

Families in Need at Christmas (All Parents/ Carers)

We have begun our annual hamper appeal and you should have received a letter from Miss McGuire regarding this. If you haven't received the letter, there is a copy on the website [here](#).



UNITY ACADEMY BLACKPOOL

Warbreck Hill Road, Blackpool,
Lancashire. FY2 0TS
Tel: 01253 355493

Email: admin@unity.fcat.org.uk

www.unity.blackpool.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Cooke BSc, NPQH

We don't believe that any child (or family) should miss out at Christmas and if we can do anything to help, we will. If you think that one of our hampers will help you, another family or someone in our community please let us know via email to the admin account (admin@unity.fcat.org.uk).

We also do not believe that any child should wake up on Christmas day with no present but don't want to impose on families. Each year, we become aware of a number of families who are finding this time of year hard. If there is the possibility that a child will wake up without a Christmas present or you know of someone in our community who may, please let us know in confidence (via email or by calling school to speak to the student support team) and we will do anything we can to help.

Key Messages

Ready, Respectful, Safe (All Parents/ Carers)

Our Behaviour Curriculum this week focused on knowing how to '**Support others**' using the story 'Giraffe is left out' by Sue Graves. The children enjoyed hearing all about Giraffe, who realises how upsetting it is to be excluded from a group. We spoke at length in assembly about what bullying is. Mrs Shaw was very happy to hear that the children knew what bullying was and knew that it was very wrong! Archie explained it perfectly by saying that "bullying is being **repeatedly** unkind to someone". We talked about the word 'repeatedly' and the children understood that fallouts with each other do happen but when it is continuous, then it becomes far more serious. We then discussed who the children's 'Trusted Adults' are so that we can be sure they all know who they can turn to should they need support. Next week we will recap on everything we have talked about this half term. This will give class teachers licence to focus on what their individual class needs.

Furthermore, this week, we have explored the importance of understanding and following safety protocols during emergencies. Students have been reminded of key procedures, including how to respond calmly and responsibly in various scenarios, such as fire drills. By practising these protocols and discussing their significance, we are ensuring that everyone feels confident and prepared to maintain a safe environment for all.

Repeated Messages

Holiday Meal Vouchers (All Parents/ Carers)

Blackpool Council have once again confirmed that they will support families of children entitled to Free School Meals with food vouchers for the Christmas break. These will start to be issued shortly.



Pupil Admission Number Consultation - Reception (All Parents/ Carers)

Due to falling birth rates in the area, we are consulting on reducing the admission number for primary from 60 to 30 from September 2026. This would mean that we would only admit 30 children from this year onwards. Parents may be aware that we only have one group in the current Reception due to these falling numbers. Many schools in the area have also consulted on these changes. [Click here for the full consultation.](#)

Standing Messages

My Child at School App (All Parents/ Carers)

[Please click here](#) for a link to the site. If you access this on a mobile device you can access the links for the apps. If you have not signed up, please download the app from the relevant app store and click 'sign up' and use the school postcode (FY2 0TS) or school ID (14676) to register. You must register with the email address we hold on our system for you.

Parents are now able to access attendance and achievement/ behaviour information on the My Child at School app.

Primary Newsletter (Primary Parents/ Carers)

Please click [here](#) to view the primary newsletter.

Reporting Bullying/ Pastoral Concerns (All Parents/ Carers)

The link to reporting concerns is now live again. Please remember that this is the mechanism to raise concerns. We have shared this with secondary students again in assembly this week so all students know how to access this link.

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/enrol/unity-academy-blackpool>

Yours sincerely,



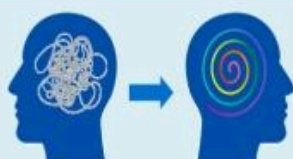
Mr. S. Cooke
Headteacher



NHS Talking Therapies Service provides a range of FREE therapy options recommended by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) for common mental health problems such as depression and anxiety.

NHS
Blackpool
Talking Therapies

FREE Courses Available



MASTERING STRESS – Steps to Wellness

30min introduction 2pm Friday 27th December
Followed 6 x 90min weekly online sessions. Friday 3rd 10th 17th
24th 31st January & 7th February.

Learn new skills and coping strategies



8-week Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy Course

60min introduction 10am Friday 17th January. Followed by
8 x 2-hour session weekly online sessions.
Friday 24th 31st January 7th 14th 21st 28th February 7th 14th March

Learn to live in the present!

A personalised link will be emailed and recordings accessible for 72hours

45min webinars, with recording available for 3 days

Resilience
and Me
10am Thur
5th Dec

Anxiety and
Worry
1pm Fri
13th Dec

Sleep and
Relaxation
1pm Wed
18th Dec

Overcoming
Low Mood
1pm Mon
7th Jan

Menopausal
Wellbeing
10am Fri
24th Jan

AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE OVER 16 WHO LIVE, WORK OR STUDY IN LANCASHIRE OR SOUTH CUMBRIA

To self-refer, please call: **01253 955700** (Monday–Friday 9am–5pm)

email: bfwh.talkingtherapies@nhs.net

www.blackpoolteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/services/talking-therapies

Scan here to
visit our website



Blackpool Talking Therapies is not able to provide reports for compensation, legal or benefits claims or prescribe medication. We do not offer 24-hour or weekend access, crisis or emergency treatment, treatment for alcohol or drug problems or treatment for severe and enduring mental illness.
Please discuss these needs with your GP.



Blackpool Talking Therapies

for anxiety and depression

Service provided by Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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