



Unity Academy Primary Newsletter
10/7/2026

Your weekly roundup of all things years N -6!



A message from Mrs. Shaw

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Following all the excitement of Sunday night's football, we were absolutely delighted with our attendance figures this week. Our overall school attendance was only slightly lower than our yearly average—a fantastic result after such a late evening. An extra special mention goes to Year 1 and Year 3, who both achieved an amazing 100% attendance on Monday!

Teaching and Learning

Mrs Bass' class were completing their art work when I bobbed into them this week. It was so calm in there and the children sat using watercolours and were focused on blending them so that there was no harsh colour change. They were excited to tell me that these were a backdrop for their next lesson. I can't wait to see the finished article!

Miss Helsby brought Blessing's English book to show me after she had completed an excellent piece of work. We are almost at the end of the first year of our new reading and writing schemes and I am so pleased we made the move. The progress the children have made is phenomenal. I always look at the first page and compare it to the last and it is so good to see the positive difference - well done Blessing!

On Monday, Year 5 were mid rehearsal when I caught them in the drama hall working on their performance of Macbeth. The children were really trying hard to speak clearly and confidently. Yesterday's performance for parents was just fabulous. Such a challenging text for Year 5 but they really brought it to life. Well done to all children and huge thanks to the staff team for their organisation!

Our RRS this week was focused on Navigating Change. This time of year is always tricky in schools as we look ahead to make sure everything is organised for next year and managing the transition so that it is as smooth as possible for all concerned. Some children are excited and some are nervous and that is absolutely normal. Our assembly focused on trying to focus on the positives to help us manage the change! Next week, we will continue our focus on change!

And finally ...

The weather is definitely getting hotter. Please make sure your child has a named hat and water bottle in school and that they have had sun cream applied prior to coming to school - we recommend the 12 hour creams to give them all day protection.

Have a lovely weekend everyone! Fingers crossed for an England win on Saturday!

Tips to thrive, not just survive in the school holidays!



To truly thrive rather than just survive the summer holidays in Blackpool, embrace the local environment by mixing structured free time with strategic outings, ensuring you don't burn out or break the bank!

Get the family together to brainstorm ideas for what they want to do

This ensures that there isn't an endless stretch of days with no plans. I've seen some great suggestions for ways to do this, such as coming up with six ideas (one for each week) together. Another idea is to brainstorm lots of free things to do, as well as things that will

cost just a small amount of money. Then put them in a pot and pick out one free and one inexpensive idea for each week.

Arrange get-togethers

If your children are young, arrange with other families to meet up in a park and take a picnic along. If your kids are older, offering to take them to a friend's house, or suggesting they host a get-together at your home can get them engaging with others rather than staying stuck in their bedroom on their own.

Set some ground rules

I've seen some brilliant ideas on how to do this on social media, such as writing a list of things you expect your children/teens to do before they are allowed online. These include: washing, getting dressed, eating breakfast, tidying their room, helping with a particular chore (such as hanging out washing), spending a certain amount of time playing outside, another chunk of time reading, some more time doing something creative (perhaps an ongoing project) or interacting with others. They may grumble at first, but it will soon become a new routine for the holidays – and it helps everyone to know what is expected. You will probably also need to stipulate how long the screen time lasts for too.

Some more ideas for things to do to keep the children entertained during the school holidays!

Blackpool Beach

Top of the list when it comes to free things to do in Blackpool has to be the beach itself – have you even been to the seaside if you haven't felt the sand on your toes? Blackpool is home to a lovely sandy beach – one where the tide does actually come right in so you can paddle (unlike lots of other [North West beaches](#)). Keep a close eye on the tide times though as the sea comes right up onto the steps at high tide so don't get set up for the day and expect to be able to stay on the sand!

Blackpool Skate Park

Blackpool Skate Park is a relatively new addition to Blackpool – situated in Stanley Park, this huge purpose built skate park is free to use and open all year round.

Comedy Carpet

Located near the Blackpool Tower, the Comedy Carpet is a giant art installation (one of the largest pieces of public art ever commissioned in the UK) which pays homage to British comedy. This permanent artwork features jokes, catchphrases, and the names of comedy legends embedded in the pavement.

Stanley Park

Stanley Park is more than just a large green space in Blackpool – it is in fact a Grade II-listed park which has been voted the best park in the UK twice! Stanley Park is free to visit and is the perfect spot to escape the hustle and bustle of Blackpool seafront.

Solaris on South Promenade

An environmental centre of excellence with visiting exhibitions. Open 7 days a week

school Uniform



UNITY UNIFORM

The branded uniform will be stocked at Bispham Clothing (01253 276047) and Ragamuffins (01253 390717). If you need any assistance with purchasing uniform please contact Alyson at <https://www.schoolwear-blackpool.com/> or Kath at Ragamuffin. Non branded items may be bought from a wide range of retailers

COMPULSORY ITEMS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL UNIFORM 2024/2025

You must wear these items every day to school



Optional Uniform



PE Uniform

(No children in any year group are to come to school wearing P.E. kit)



Unity Academy Footwear



Footwear should be all black with no identifiable markings. If this footwear is a boot it must be no bigger than ankle length. No crocs or sandals are permitted. Trainers are permitted as long as they are fully black. Please check the guide opposite



Jewellery and Hair

A maximum of 2 earrings can be worn in each ear. These should be stud-type earrings. No other visible piercings are allowed. If children have ear piercings, they should be able to remove and replace them independently for PE. Children should not wear rings for school, it is unsafe on play equipment. Any necklaces and/or bracelets are to be kept inside the shirt and removed for PE. Primary aged students are expected to have long hair tied back for health and safety reasons. Bows and bobbles should be black, white or red. The school will not allow students to have words/logos shaved into their hair. The school will have due regard to equality laws when considering hair styles. Hairstyles and head coverings that are part of the culture and identity of an ethnic or racial group will be respected. The school would prefer children's hair to be of a natural colour but will tolerate hair which has been coloured. Children should not have very bright, non-natural hair colourants (e.g. green, blue etc.)



Dates for the Diary



Please see the noticeboards out the front of school for the most recent and up to date diary dates.

Primary Reward & Consequence System



As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting every child to thrive, we are excited to introduce a new Rewards and Consequences system across school. This is designed to celebrate the fantastic behaviour we see from the vast majority of our pupils each day, while also helping us guide them when things don't quite go to plan. The system will run from

Nursery right through to Year 11, with small differences between Primary and Secondary to suit the age of the pupils.

In Primary, children can earn a *Ready, Respectful, Safe (RRS)* reward point in every lesson by meeting our behaviour expectations. On occasions where a child goes above and beyond, teachers may also give an *Exceeding Expectations* award, worth 5 RRS points. Student of the Lesson cards will no longer be handed out. We are already seeing how motivated the children are to collect these points and celebrate their success.

If a child's behaviour falls short of expectations, we use a clear and fair set of consequences (C1–C5) to help them get back on track. More details can be found in the table overleaf.

All Rewards and Consequences are logged so you can see how your child is doing by checking the behaviour section of the *My Child At School (MCAS)* app. Details for how to sign up to the app can be found on the primary newsletter. Please use this link <https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin> to login to the app.

For Primary children, if a C2 is given, parents/carers will be updated by text message at the end of the day. Please ensure that we always have your correct mobile number in school. For a C3, C4, or C5, the class teacher will contact you in person or by phone to talk through what happened and how we can support your child moving forward.

This system has been shared and discussed with the children in school, and they are really enthusiastic about earning points and making positive choices.

We would like to take the opportunity to stress how vital it is that parents support us in upholding our new behaviour reward and consequence system. Should the need arise, we carefully and fairly unpick every situation, always working to ensure that children are treated consistently. Please note that we gain nothing from misrepresenting their behaviour so when staff in school inform you of any situation, we do so to give you a full and clear picture. For this system to truly benefit all children, it's essential that the messages we share in school are reinforced at home. Our expectations are clear and simple, rooted in our values of being **Ready, Respectful and Safe**, and our school rules of '**good looking**', '**good listening**', '**good sitting**', '**kind friends**'. When school and home work together with the same expectations, children thrive in a safe, supportive and consistent environment.

We believe this approach will not only encourage and celebrate the wonderful behaviour we see in school every day but also help strengthen the important partnership between home and school.

Thank you for your continued support — it really does make such a difference. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at school if you'd like to talk about this further.

Mr T Cooper, Assistant Headteacher

R1	An RRS point awarded for meeting expectations.	C1	A direct reminder of RRS expectations
R2	100 RRS points achieved, text message home to inform parents.	C2	A formal warning, recorded on Class Charts
R3	200 RRS points achieved, certificate awarded in assembly.	C3	15 minutes reflection in buddy class
R4	500 RRS points achieved, badge awarded in assembly.	C4	Remainder of session (AM/PM) in Reflection Room
R5	1000 RRS points achieved, invitation to end of year rewards trip.	C5	Day in the Reflection Room

Attendance



	Attendance %	Late marks
• RHH	89.90	3
• 1MT	97.22	1
• 2BH	98.66	0
• 2JB	93.27	6
• 3KG	95.31	2
• 3HP	98.75	5

• 4CBL	94.57	4
• 4HB	90.62	4
• 5MB	99.14	4
• 5JH	96.76	2
• 6TT	95.54	1
• 6VA	96.55	6

Keeping children safe!



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.

2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.

3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.

4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.

5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.

6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.

7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.

8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.

9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.

10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website



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#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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TECH-FREE SUMMER FOR TEENS

For many 11- to 16-year-olds, summer can quickly become screen heavy, especially when socialising, entertainment, and downtime all happen via their devices. Encouraging a tech-free summer isn't about banning technology altogether, but about helping young people rediscover friendship, creativity, independence, and the great outdoors. The NHS recommends that young people aged 5 to 18 aim for an average of at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day across the week.

- BUILD OUTDOOR CHOICE**

Teens are more likely to engage when they feel they have a level of control. Create a simple 'summer outdoors menu' with options such as cycling to a favourite café, playing rounders, visiting a skatepark, dog walking, photography walks, geocaching, or helping around the garden. Parents and educators can then ask young people to choose two or three activities each week that interest them.
- PREPARE THE KIT**

Small barriers can stop teenagers going outside, especially if they feel uncomfortable, too hot, or unprepared. Keep a grab bag with sun cream, water, snacks, plasters, a cap, period products, and a lightweight waterproof. During hot weather, plan shade, water breaks, and calmer activities, as vigorous exercise is not advised on very hot days.
- TRY MICRO-ADVENTURES**

Outdoor activities don't need to be expensive or complicated. A micro-adventure could be as simple as watching the sunsets, walking to a local viewpoint, making breakfast outside, visiting a new green space, or planning a bus journey to a nearby nature trail. Encourage teens to plan the route, snacks, and timings themselves to help build their independence.
- LINK TO REAL INTERESTS**

A young person who dislikes sport may still enjoy being outside if the activity connects with something they already care about. Link outdoor time to music, art, animals, fashion, cooking, photography, or social interaction. Ideas include sketching in a park, making a nature playlist, filming a wildlife vlog script, or designing posters for a community garden.
- CREATE SOCIAL PULL**

For many teenagers, friends are the strongest motivator in various areas of life. Parents can invite one or two friends on walks, picnics, or garden games while schools can promote lunchtime leagues, outdoor clubs, or summer meet-ups linked to existing interests. Make these activities feel social rather than supervised, with adults nearby for safety but not dominating the experience.
- MAKE TRAVEL ACTIVE**

Active travel is a practical way to build outdoor time into everyday routines. Encourage young people to walk, cycle, or scooter short journeys where it's safe to do so, such as to school, the library, a friend's house, or a sports club. Educators could run a summer active miles challenge, with pupils logging their journeys completed on foot or by pedal.
- USE PHONE-FREE CHALLENGES**

Rather than simply saying, "Put your phone away", turn time spent offline into a shared challenge. Try a two-hour, phone-free park visit, a family evening walk, or a tutor-group challenge where pupils track their screen-free outdoor hours and share what they've been doing. You could all agree to keep devices in a box, bag, or classroom drawer, and allow for check-in time afterwards.
- OFFER REAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Teens often respond well when outdoor activities feel purposeful. Give them the responsibility for setting up a garden get-together, planning a picnic budget, leading a warm-up routine, mapping a walking route, or organising outdoor equipment. Schools could ask pupils to design an outdoor wellbeing trail, manage a sports rota, or support younger pupils during activity sessions.
- REPLACE, DON'T REMOVE**

If screens are taken away without an appealing alternative, young people may see outdoor time as a punishment. Replace gaming sessions with football drills, dance practice, basketball shots, treasure hunts, or card games outside. Replace screen scrolling with a 'boredom box' containing items like chalk, a frisbee, skipping ropes, playing cards, seed packets, or a disposable-style camera.
- CELEBRATE SMALL WINS**

Not every teenager will suddenly love the outdoors, so recognise their gradual progress. Celebrate a 20-minute walk, an hour at the park, a phone-free picnic lunch, or choosing to cycle instead of being driven around. Parents and educators can use praise, certificates, group displays, or simple shared reflection to show that outdoor effort matters.

Meet Our Expert

The National College provides expert-led training and resources to support schools, trusts and education settings worldwide. Its guidance helps parents and educators understand the issues affecting children and young people today, covering topics such as safeguarding, wellbeing, digital safety, and healthy development.

See full reference list on our website

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#WakeUpWednesday **The National College**

Nursery



This week in Nursery we have enjoyed the story, 'Cubs First Summer.' We have continued to learn about summer and how to keep ourselves safe. The children have enjoyed recapping shapes and completing shape repeating patterns.

The have also practised their hopping, skipping and jumping skills. We have worked on standing on one leg.

The children enjoyed their transition afternoons in reception and loved meeting their new teacher Mrs Harvey

Reception



This week, the children have been reflecting on all of their wonderful memories from their year in Reception. They each chose their favourite memory, drew a picture to represent it and wrote a simple sentence explaining why it was so special to them.

We then enjoyed a walk to our local postbox, talking about what we could see along the way, listening carefully to directions and discussing the importance of staying safe near roads. The children were excellent ambassadors for our school and were fantastic role models throughout the visit.

Keep an eye out over the next week for a very special letter arriving at your home! We encourage you to chat with your child about their favourite Reception memory, why it was so meaningful to them and the many other things they have enjoyed and achieved this year.

Year 1



Another lovely week in Year 1!

In English the children completed character descriptions of The Last Wolf, based on our text 'The Last Wolf' by Mini Grey. Everyone included spectacular pieces of vocabulary including, 'destroyed', 'creeping', 'stalking', 'undergrowth' and 'bracken'. Well done Year 1!

In Maths we have been learning all about money, including the names and values of coins and notes. We then moved on to counting coins in 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s, alongside comparing amounts. The children all did a fantastic job and should be very proud of the progress they have made this year!

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Year 2





Year 3 have had a fantastic week!

In Maths the children have been recapping on lots of different arithmetic skills they have learnt over the past year so their knowledge is secure ready for year 4.

In English the children have been writing their recount on Usain Bolt, the writing they have produced has been fantastic and the children have really enjoyed learning about Usain Bolt and finding out some fun facts about him.

In PSHE the children have been answering some questions about their time in year 3. They talked about what they have enjoyed, what their proudest achievement was, what they have found hard and who has made the year great. It was so lovely to see all of the different they could remember throughout the year.

In art the children have been using the water colours to create their background ready to create their final piece next week inspired by the artist Gerogia O'Keefe.

Reminder that all of Year 3 are going on their trip to the Showtown museum on Wednesday 15th July. Please ensure your child is in school on time as we will be leaving straight after registration.

Please can you also send your child into school with a carrier bag ready to put all of your child's books in from throughout the year, Thankyou.

Well done Year 3, we hope you have a lovely weekend.

The Year 3 Team

Year 4





A huge congratulations to all of Year 5 for their absolutely amazing performance of *Macbeth*! The children worked incredibly hard, and it was wonderful to see their talent, enthusiasm, and confidence shine on the stage.

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our parents and carers. Your ongoing support throughout this process—from helping the children practice their lines at home to cheering them on—has been invaluable.

Next week, we are moving into our final full week of the school year. We have some very exciting events and activities to look forward to as we celebrate everything the children have achieved together.

Have a lovely weekend, **The Year 5 Team**

Year 6



Another hot week in year 6, we've joined an online seminar on transition to high school and we've had a visit from a police officer in 6TT talking about E-safety, staying safe around water and the dangers of carrying a knife.

I'm really looking forward to the Teddy Bear's Picnic on Wednesday 22nd July and to start off the children's excitement, we had a visit from Emmy bear. I hope your children are getting lots of sponsors for a very worthwhile charity.

We have lots of activities over the next 8 1/2 days so please try and get your children in every day. Have a lovely weekend and 'come on England.'

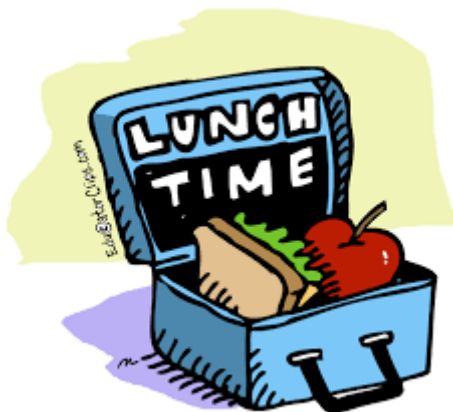
Star of the week



- **RHH -- Renesmee - For adapting well to change and having a positive attitude!**

- 1MT - Ivy - For showing so much independence and resilience in your work. Well done Ivy!
- 2BH - Blessing - For a fantastic piece of independent writing in English. Well done!
- 2JB - Duana - For improved focus in her learning!
- 3KG - Isaac - For a huge improvement in his reading score on AR. Well done!
- 3HP - Rosie - For always helping her teachers around the classroom and being a kind and supportive friend.
- 4CBL - Inka - For always being a fantastic role model around school and being such a kind, caring friend.
- 4HB - Riley - For always being a shining star, a role model and a great example of our school values!
- 5JH - All of 5JH - For the hard work everyone has put into the year 5 play.
- 5MB - For the hard work everyone has put into the year 5 play.
- 5MB - Sophia - For super expression and characterisation whilst reading a range of parts in the play
- 6TT - Xavier - for the maturity he is showing and the extra effort he is putting in to his work
- 6VA - Erika - For being one of our 'always' children :)

Lunchtime menu for next week



 Monday	 Tuesday	 Wednesday	 Thursday	 Friday
Cook's Choice Homemade Pizza(v), Oven Baked Herby Potatoes, Garden Peas or Baked Beans or Vegetarian Sausage & Pastry Twists (v), Oven Baked Herby Potatoes, Tomato Ketchup & Baked Beans	Roast Beef, Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Veg & Gravy or Roast Fillet of Quorn, Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Veg & Gravy	Mini Brunch: Pork or Vegetarian Sausage, Omelette, Hash Brown, Baked Beans, Grilled Tomato & Mushrooms or Sweet Potato & Cauliflower Curry (v), Rice & Naan Bread	Cheese & BBQ Chicken, Oven Baked Potato Wedges, Sweetcorn or Mixed Salad or Pasta & Tomato Sauce, Homemade Dough Balls & Mixed Salad	Youngs Fish Fingers, Oven Baked Chips, Garden Peas or Baked Beans or Crispy Vegetable Burger (v), Oven Baked Chips, Garden Peas or Baked Beans