



Unity Academy Primary Newsletter
13/6/2025

Your weekly roundup of all things years N-6!



A message from Mrs. Shaw

A Message From Mrs. Shaw

Week 2 done. These weeks really are flying by!

Teaching and Learning

Phonics Screening has taken place in Year 1 this week and also for those children in Year 2 who did not reach the expected standard last year. I am so incredibly proud of all of the children as they have really worked hard this year. They tried their best and it is clear to see that their hard work has paid off. Well done to you all and huge thanks to all phonics teachers!

Year 4 have been busy doing their Y4 Multiplication Check this week. Again, the children have been working hard all year on learning their times tables and this week was their chance to show off what they know. Well done to all of you. I know your teachers are very proud of you all, as am I! Thanks must go to teachers for well-preparing our children!

All primary children had a visit from Bright Bites this week who gave advice on the importance of oral health habits and good dental hygiene. Your child will shortly be coming home with a new toothbrush and toothpaste!

I did chuckle when I returned back to school yesterday to find a Mayan Civilisation study guide left on my desk. Jake (Y6) came to see me later to say that he and Archie had created an online quiz for me to complete about the Mayans. He even told me the pages that I had to use in the study guide to help me answer the questions. I feel like I've got homework to do myself. I promise I will try my best boys! I wonder if I will get a sticker for my efforts?! ;-)

This week in our Primary RRS Behaviour Curriculum, we introduced our Playground Ready, Respectful, Safe expectations to help all children understand how to make positive choices during playtimes and lunchtimes. Unstructured times are an important part of the school day where social skills, friendships, and independence are developed. By applying our Ready, Respectful, Safe values in the playground, children learn how to play kindly, include others, solve small problems calmly, and move around safely. These expectations support a happy, inclusive environment where every child feels safe and valued — both inside and outside the classroom. As part of our RRS (Ready, Respectful, Safe) curriculum next week, we'll be using the story *Moggy's Coming* by Tim Hodgetts and Andy Thurgood. This age-appropriate resource, produced by CitizenAID in partnership with the Government Security Office, helps children recognise when something doesn't feel safe and what to do in those situations. It teaches them to trust their feelings, notice early warning signs, and speak to a trusted adult — helping us prepare children for real-life situations and keep them safe both in and out of school.

**** INSET DAY - IMPORTANT - 21st July 2025 ****

On Monday 21st July, Unity Academy will be closed to all pupils (Nursery through to Year 11) for an additional INSET day for staff. We're sharing this information in advance to help parents and carers make any necessary childcare arrangements. INSET days are an important part of ensuring your child receives the highest quality education—giving staff the time to plan, train and prepare effectively for the year ahead. Thank you for your understanding and continued support. A physical letter will be sent home to parents and carers regarding INSET, alongside a message via MCAS.

Diary Dates

- 16th - 20th June - Blackpool Youth Games Week
- 17th June - New Reception 2025 starters Group A, session 1 - transition visit - 2:15 – 3:00pm
- 18th June - New Reception 2025 starters Group B, session 1 - transition visit - 9:15 – 10:00am
- 19th June - Y2 Rock Gardens Visit
- 24th June - New Reception 2025 starters Group B, session 2 - transition visit - 2:15 – 3:00pm

- 25th June - Reception Church Visit
- 26th June - New Reception 2025 starters Group A, session 1 - transition visit - 9:15 – 10:00am
- 30th June - Eid Assembly
- 3rd July - Y6 into Y7 Transition Day
- 3rd July - Primary Transition Day

And finally... Happy weekend everyone!

Community Corner



The Children's learning disability and ADHD service will be delivering their 'tea and talk' sessions the first Friday of each month in our Community Hub. Why not drop in!



Blackpool

Children's Learning Disability and ADHD Team

Tea & Talk



For Parents/Carers

**Advice &
Support**

**Networking
with
Parents/Carers**

**Signposting
Information**

**Pre-referral
guidance**

**One Friday a month
9:30am - 11:30am
Please see dates on back
Unity Academy Family Hub
Warbreck Hill Road
Blackpool
FY2 0TS**

Contact CYP LD and ADHD team for more
information
0800 121 7762 Option 5



Upcoming Dates

25/26

Friday 4th July 2025	Friday 6th February 2026
Friday 5th September 2025	Friday 6th March 2026
Friday 3rd October 2025	Friday 27th March 2026
Friday 7th November 2025	Friday 1st May 2026
Friday 5th December 2025	Friday 5th June 2026
Friday 9th January 2026	Friday 3rd July 2026

🐉 "Don't Be a Fool – Bring Your Lids to School" 🐉



Unity Academy Blackpool is encouraging students, staff, families, and the wider community to collect **plastic milk bottle lids** and bring them into school. These will be used to create a large-scale piece of artwork that highlights the dangers of plastic pollution in our oceans. The finished piece will be proudly displayed in the Houndshell Shopping Centre, Blackpool, helping raise awareness of how everyday waste can impact marine life around the world. Bottle lids (any colour) can be dropped off into clearly marked collection boxes located in **Main Reception**, the **Community Hub**, or **Mr. Cooper's Office**. Every lid counts—please join us in turning waste into something meaningful! We will be collecting plastic milk bottle lids until Friday 18th July.

COLLECT PLASTIC LIDS!


UNITY

FROM MILK BOTTLES

Help us create a piece of artwork to be displayed in the Houndshill Shopping Centre in Blackpool, highlighting the dangers of plastic pollution in oceans around the world.



Milk bottle lids can be dropped off into collection boxes located in Main Reception, the Community Hub or Mr Cooper's Office

57th Blackpool (Unity Academy) Scouts



Did you know? Unity Academy has our very own Scout Group that runs each week on a Thursday to provide our young people with Skills For Life! [More information can be found by clicking here.](#)

We run sections for each age group from 4 years old and up. In addition to the weekly meetings on a Thursday after school we also offer a wide range of trips, camps, nights away and adventurous activities for all age groups.

* Squirrels (For ages 4 - 6 years): Thursday : 3:15 until 4:30 pm * Beavers (For ages 6 - 8 years): Thursday : 3:15 until 4:45 pm

* Cubs (For ages 8- 10.5 years): Thursday : 3:15 until 4:45 pm * Scouts (For ages 10.5 - 14 years): Thursday : 3:15 until 4:45 pm

Our in school Scout Sections are run by a group of volunteers, most of which are parents of children at Unity Academy. Without this support, it would not be possible to provide these amazing opportunities for the young people. If you feel like volunteering with the Scouts is something you might be able to offer, please do get in touch. It might be to support one section meeting a month, offer a certain skill you have or to support behind the scenes with finance and administration. Whatever your skills, every little offer of help is invaluable to us. [To inquire about a place for a young person or about adult volunteering with the Scouts, please click here.](#)

Contact us!



If you wish to contact a teacher within school please use this link [Parental Messages / Queries \(Non-urgent\)](#). and we will get back to you. This form should be used rather than contacting an individual teacher email address as we can then ensure that you are responded to in a timely manner. Messages will be passed on and dealt with as quickly as possible. Our aim is to respond to you within 48 school working hours. Please note that this may not be checked during teaching hours and so **please do not add anything urgent** e.g. about your child being collected by someone else at the end of the day. If you have an urgent message or query, please contact the school office on 01253 355493. Thank you.

Attendance



	<i>Attendance %</i>	<i>Late marks</i>
• <i>RHH</i>	<i>95.98</i>	<i>4</i>
• <i>1CL</i>	<i>97.32</i>	<i>4</i>
• <i>1MT</i>	<i>91.59</i>	<i>9</i>

• 2BH	95.65	8
• 2AP	93.10	4
• 3KG	90.76	2
• 3HB	91.50	5
• 4JB	88.43	5
• 4CBL	98.66	8
• 5MB	94.83	8
• 5NO	94.70	3
• 6TT	93.75	5
• 6VA	98.71	5

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, facts and tips, please visit thenationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY

Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast amounts from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unrealistic material. Active measures should be taken to ensure inappropriate content is not accessed.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store user information. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be shared or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING

Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently if they consistently use it to solve problems or complete tasks. It could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own views. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES

Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or create tasks. This can lead to unethical practices or dishonest academic practices. Conversation around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Monitor children regularly to help them develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.

PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them responsibly and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.

ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Help them adjust settings on AI tools and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.

Meet Our Expert

Brandon O'Keefe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House School, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brandon guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

[@wake_up_weds](https://twitter.com/wake_up_weds)
www.thenationalcollege.com
[@wake.up.wednesday](https://www.instagram.com/wake.up.wednesday)
[@wake.up.weds](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 05.06.2025

Celebrating Culture and Difference





Monday 16th June marks the commemoration of the first Sikh martyr - Guru Arjan Dev. [Click here to learn more](#)

Nursery



This week we have continued to work on our similarities and differences topic. We have read the story 'The Smeds and The Smoos' by Julia Donaldson and we have spoken about our interests and how they differ from our friends. The children have created their own aliens by blow painting, they have also been counting objects 1:1. The children have been working hard to look after the flowers and plants in our garden. We have also enjoyed a visit from zoo lab today!

Reception



This week we have read the story *Handa's Surprise* by Eileen Browne. The children have loved joining in with the story and talking about the different animals. As part of Drawing Club this week, the children have thought about how they could stop the animals from stealing the fruit so that Akeyo got the full basket and not just tangerines! There has been some fantastic suggestions like adding a net to the basket or even putting fences around the animals. Why not share the video below with your child and ask them to talk you through the story?!



Year 1



We are simply over the moon with all Year One children who have absolutely tried their very best with the Phonics Screening Check this week.



What a fabulous week year 2 have had!

In Maths we have started our new topic 'Time.' The children have thoroughly enjoyed practically using the clocks to find the times o'clock and half past. We then used this skill to draw the hands on the clock to tell the time.

In English we have continued reading the story 'Whatever next.' The children have been writing about their own adventure to the moon ensuring the correct punctuation is used throughout their writing.

In History we have been looking at the different dangers in space and what astronauts have to do to keep themselves safe.

In Art we have been using our imagination by listening to a short story then drawing a picture of what the story might look like using our observational drawing skills we learnt last week.

Next Thursday 19th June 2025 is our trip to the rock gardens. If you have not yet brought your reply slip back please return it into school and if you have any questions about the trip please speak to your child's class teacher.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend, The Year 2 Team!

Year 3



What a busy week in year 3!

This week, in English we have continued with our story 'The Twits' and thought about our character Mr Twit at different stages of his life. We thought about different sneaky tricks he might play on people as a child, teenager and adult. We then planned our tricks and wrote a short paragraph using all the descriptive language we have learnt in year 3!

In Maths, we have been looking at telling the time to 1 minute, digital clocks and a.m and p.m. We are doing really well with recognising both analogue and digital times - please continue to test us on this at home!

In History this week, we have been looking at the different people in Ancient Egyptian society - from the pharaoh to the soldiers and the nobles to the slaves. We thought about what role we might want if we lived in Ancient Egypt, with lots of people choosing pharaoh or craftsman!

Please continue to read 3 times weekly to support your child's comprehension skills and fluency.

Year 4



We are simply over the moon with all Year Four children who have absolutely tried their very best with their Multiplication Check this week.



It has been great to see the children's enthusiasm to read and develop their understanding of our play, 'The Midsummer Night's Dream' through a range of subjects.

In DT, the children have chosen a character to create as a puppet and have written a detailed plan ready to start their sewing. In English, we have written instructions to create a love potion with some fantastic detail explaining why they chose their ingredients and included some safety tips to ensure their instructions are followed correctly.

Whilst reading the play in Guided Reading, the children are starting to see how the characters are behaving and feeling and how stage directions are used to give instructions to the actors. We are really looking forward to starting to rehearse next week, details of the date of the performance will be sent out soon. The links to the songs are available on

Google classroom if you would like to get a sneak preview, it's great that a number of children have been practising them at home.

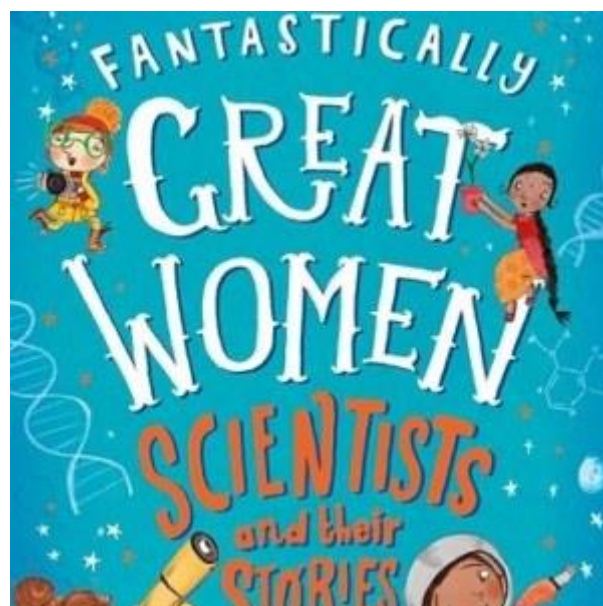
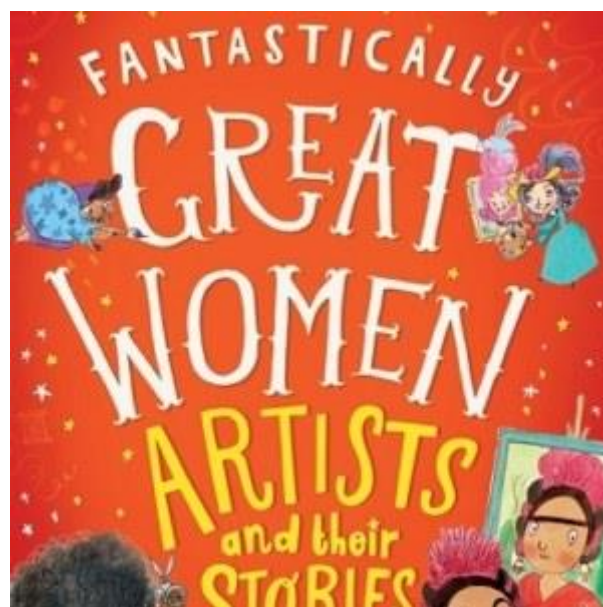
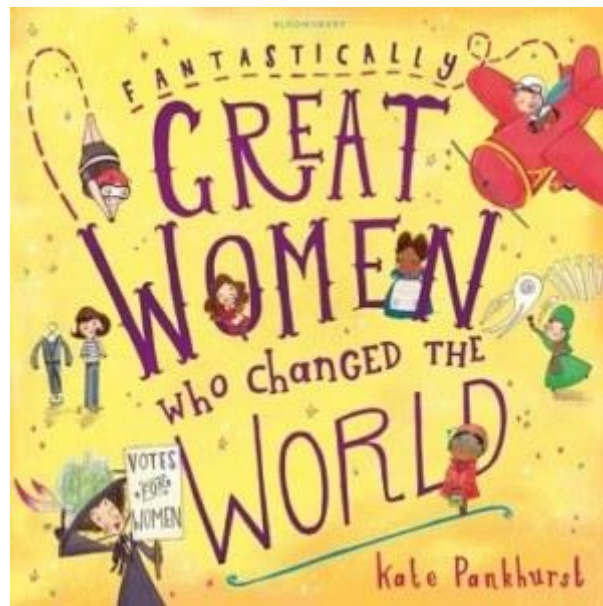
Advance notice: - Final payment for PGL - Year 6 Residential - is due on 1st July, £50 to be paid through parent pay.

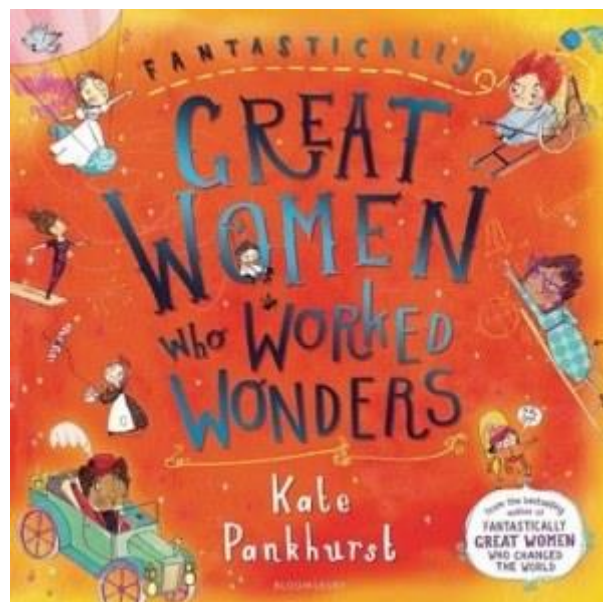
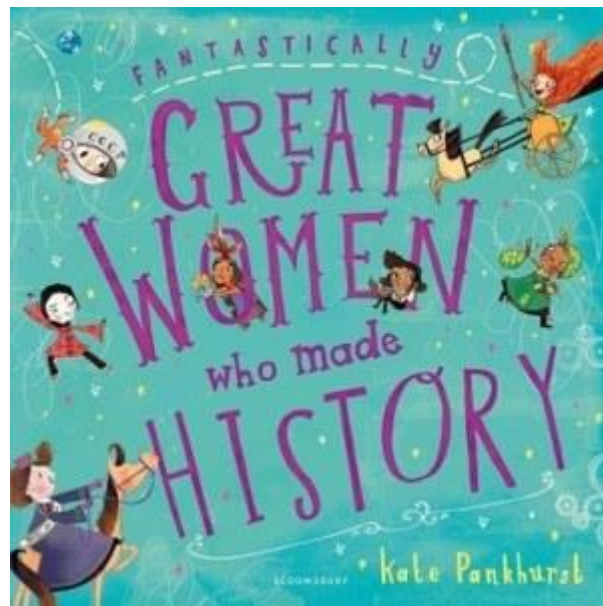
Year 6



This week began with a very exciting author led session with Kate Pankhurst, online. Her aim is to help grow children's joy around reading and storytelling - she did this with an interactive and fun session involving lots of intriguing props, dressing up, drawing and plenty of inspiration on how to change the world. She discussed her working process and demonstrated that from small doodles, BIG ideas can grow. We were all very inspired by her session which led us to illustrate a character from one of her books. We think some of these books might be going on this year's Christmas list!

[Kate Pankhurst website](#)





Star of the Week



- ***RHH - Caitlyn-Mae - For showing resilience and for always taking pride in her work!***
- ***1CL - Iyanu - For such commendable progress in her phonics and for being such a great helper in the classroom.***
- ***1MT - Ethan - For having such a positive week. I am so proud of you!***
- ***2BH - Hunter-James - For trying his best to improve his handwriting and creating independent sentences.***
- ***2AP - Jaxon - For always having a positive attitude and his enthusiasm during maths.***
- ***3KG - Jayden - For having such a positive attitude towards his learning and really turning it around!***
- ***3HB - Reese - For always making positive contributions to class discussions, working hard and producing exceptional work!***
- ***4JB - All of 4JB - For outstanding effort in preparing for the Multiplication check***
- ***4CBL - All of 4CBL - For outstanding effort in preparing for the Multiplication check***
- ***5MB - Logan - For showing kindness to a number of people and taking pride in his work***
- ***5NO - Kacie Pace - For always putting her best efforts into her work.***
- ***6TT - Tyler -***
- ***6VA - Sean - For taking pride in our school library, tidying it at his discretion***

School Uniform



Revised policy from September: From September our uniform is changing. The decision was made following consultation with children, parents and staff. Large numbers of people shared their thoughts for the options given and the vast majority voted for a change to some aspects of our uniform.

As a reminder, please have a look at the list below and make sure your children are correctly dressed for both the school day and PE. To request items of uniform please click [here](#) and complete the short form. We will do our best to meet your needs, stock permitting.

Nursery Uniform

- Black sweatshirt with logo
- White polo shirt
- Black trousers, tracksuit bottoms or skirt
- Black shoes if wearing trousers or skirt or Trainers (preferably black) if wearing tracksuit bottoms.

Primary uniform - All students should wear:

- Black V Neck school jumper with embroidered Unity Academy logo - **this item is compulsory!**
- Plain White Shirt or blouse
- Plain **black** socks or tights
- House Badge (Provided by the academy initially, replacements can be purchased from the academy)
- All black footwear with no identifiable markings. If this footwear is a boot it must be no bigger than ankle length. No crocs!

Students have a choice of: (students must wear one of these)

- Plain black tailored skirt
- Plain black trousers or shorts (tailored type, not tracksuit bottoms/ jeans)
- A Black Blazer with the Unity logo is optional


P.E. Kit - Red polo shirt Black shorts Black socks Black Pumps

Summer Uniform

- Red check dress with white ankle socks
- Black short trousers

If your child has outgrown any uniform items and they are in good condition, please do send them into school where they can be added to our supply for other parents to access.


Thank you


UNITY UNIFORM


The branded uniform will be stocked at Blenheim Clothing (01263 276047) and Ragamuffins (01263 386717). If you need any assistance with purchasing uniform please contact Alyson at <https://www.schoolwear-blackpool.com/> or Kath at Ragamuffins. 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




Plain white shirt
No logo or branding




Unity logo jumper
Plain black V-neck jumper with Unity logo on the left chest




Unity logo cardigan
Plain black cardigan with Unity logo on the left chest




Tailored Skirt
Plain black



Trousers
Plain black, no logo or branding




Plain black socks




Plain black tights
No logo, branding or pattern. Available at many retailers


Optional Uniform




Shorts
Plain black



Summer dress




Plain white socks
(To be worn with summer dress)




Black Blazer
with the Unity logo

PE Uniform


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



Red polo shirt




Black shorts





Black Pumps or Trainers

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

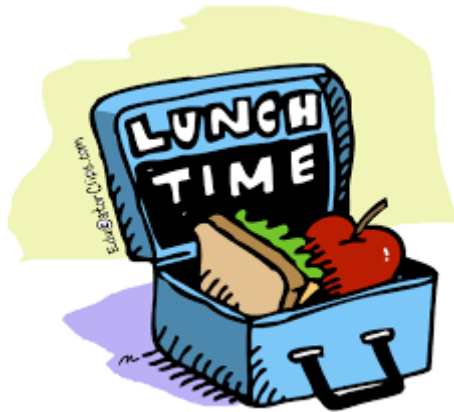



Jewellery and Hair

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.)



Lunchtime menu for this week



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Homemade Pizza Margherita & Salad Bar (v) Or Italian Tomato & Vegetable Pasta Bake (v)	Savoury Mince, Yorkshire Pudding & Mash Potato Or Vegetarian Sausage Roll & Mash Potato (v)	Crispy Chicken Wrap & Herby Potato Wedges Or Cheese & Tomato Pin Wheel Pizza & Herby Potato Wedges (v)	Quorn & Sweet Potato Curry & Wholegrain Rice (v) Or Pork & Leek Meatballs, Tomato Sauce & Pasta Spirals	Crispy Vegetable Fingers & Oven Baked Chips (v) Or MSC Harry Ramsden's Fish & Oven Baked Chips