



Unity Academy Primary Newsletter
14/2/2025

Your weekly roundup of all things years N-6!



A message from Mrs. Shaw

A Message From Mrs. Shaw

Well we have come to the end of a very busy half term and I'm sure I'm not the only one who is ready for the break. This half term has seen the start of Reading and Rugby sessions in Y6 and Barclay's Life Skills sessions for Years 3 and 5. Mock SATs in Y6, a Tram Trip for Y4 and local author, Dan Worsley has visited Years 4 and 6. Some of our children in Years 3 - 6 represented Unity at School's Alive on the second biggest stage in Europe and Year 5 went to UCLan. We have also had various Parental Engagement sessions - Year 1 parents were invited in to sew this week! This is all on top of the high quality teaching that takes place every day. The children have worked incredibly hard this half term, as have the staff and I would like to wish them all a relaxing holiday!

Teaching and Learning

Y2 have been using the book the 'Queen's Orang-utan' by David Walliams this week. Miss Helsby brought Joshua to see me with his English book. He had worked very hard on building sentences with a view to writing his own version. I can't wait to read it! Well done Joshua.

Y3 have been learning to use the Bus Stop method for division in Maths. Miss Gleadell was over the moon at how hard her class had worked. Lian came to show me her whiteboard where she had not only learned how to use the concept but within the same lesson had

gone from being able to do it with two digit numbers to four digit numbers which is amazing! Well done Lian!

Y1 had their Parental Engagement event this week and took part in a sewing session. The children love having their parents in school and we hope you all had as much fun as they did!

Mrs Bass invited me to judge the winner of the best decorated potato lesson in Year 4. This was done as part of their PSHE lesson and involved them working as part of a team to design and make the funniest potato. They had to talk together and share their ideas to create a personality for their potato. I chose the winning team because of the description they had written which was very humorous. Congratulations!

Mr Brimley and the Year 5 children were very proud of the structure they have made as you will see in the attached photo. This has been made as part of their DT - Structures and Tudors work in History. It is fantastic Year 5, well done!

Our RRS curriculum this week was focused on choices and consequences using the book 'Koala makes the right choice' by Sue Graves. We spent a great deal of time talking in assembly on Monday about 'stopping and thinking', the effect our choices can have on ourselves and others and the consequences that come with that. We all decided it was far nicer to make the right choice, especially in regard to how we treat other people. I was very impressed when I went into Reception yesterday as they could talk to me about what it all meant. When we return after the holidays we will, as usual, recap on our school values and expectations!

Our primary children were invited by HoundsHill Shopping Centre to take part in their Random Acts of Kindness initiative and I am pleased to say that some of our children's work has been selected. From Saturday 15th February you will see some large vinyl banners on display in the shopping centre, so why not pop along to see them during half term to see if you can spot your child's work!

The primary Model Club run by Mr Brimley have proudly shared their to scale models of a WW2 tank in assembly this morning. The children have attended the group for 12 weeks and have created their own models from a cardboard box. They have worked so hard to measure and worked out to scale the different parts and constructed them all by hand. Well done all of you!

Year 6

Thank you to the parents who attended our recent Y6 SATs information evening. At this meeting, we shared up to date mock SAT results and crucial information about the upcoming Year 6 SATs tests. We also provided details of the **Precision Tutoring Sessions** and **LBO Targeted Sessions** that are on offer from W/C 24th February for 9 weeks until the SATS tests. These sessions would cost in the region of £30 if you approached a private company. **At**

Unity we are providing these for free but places are limited! All sessions are filling up fast so if you haven't yet secured your child's place, please [CLICK HERE](#) to get them booked in. You really don't want them to miss out! School and home working together is only of benefit to your child. As we shared at the information evening, children who achieve the expected standard in their Y6 SATs test are more likely to go on to achieve a grade 4/5 at GCSE and GCSE's give your child options for later life! Get booking now!

Diary Dates

- 14th February - School closes for half term
- 24th February - School reopens for Spring 2
- W/C 24th February - Y6 Precision Tutoring Sessions and LBQ Targeted Sessions start and run for 9 weeks.
- 24th - 28th February - Phonics Screening Check Week
- 24th - 28th February/ 3rd-7th March - Y5 Bikeability - **THIS HAS NOW BEEN REARRANGED. Further information will follow!**
- 24th February - Ramadan Assembly
- 24th February - Y5 National Youth Orchestra Trip
- 28th February - Y4/5 Choir Workshop
- 4th March - NHS Reception/Y6 Height and Weight Checks
- 6th March - Primary Choir to Lowther Pavillion

And finally ... Have a wonderful and relaxing half term holiday. School reopens on Monday 24th February at 8:40am.





Community Information



Chris Webb MP is holding a job fair at the Blackpool Winter Gardens Conference Centre in Partnership with Job Centre Plus on February 27th from 9 am - 4:30 pm. Over 100 Employers, from small businesses to national Chains, Emergency Services, and the Armed Forces, will attend this event. Over 4,000 DPW customers have been invited, as well as being open to the public. Details can be found here <https://www.chriswebb.org/jobsfair>

Date: Thursday 27th February 2025
Gardens Conference Centre, Blackpool

Location: Winter

Time: 9:30am - 12:30pm for those claiming unemployment benefits
4:30pm: Open to the general public

12:30pm -



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>
• RHH	99.11	4
• 1CL	92.13	6
• 1MT	96.12	6
• 2BH	89.58	4
• 2AP	86.25	5
• 3KG	92.00	8
• 3HB	93.75	10
• 4JB	88.89	4
• 4CBL	98.21	10
• 5MB	87.50	9
• 5NO	92.50	10
• 6TT	91.81	8
• 6VA	84.58	15

Keeping children safe!



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to keep an informed conversation about online safety with their children. Should they feel it's needed, this guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, facts and tips for adults.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, UKiA, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Choosing which video games are OK – or even which should be avoided – is not always an easy decision. There are hundreds of complete mini-adventures, which create powerful risks. Encourage your child to play for a while and provide them with insight into a particular game, so they can make informed choices. Encourage them to talk to you or chat to your child or friend about their requests. Remind your child of the respect and consent issues that mean you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need for sleep regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than long production sessions. Focus on educational games (such as the *Plenty of Fish* game) or puzzle games (such as *Angry Birds*) that can be stopped at any time. Encourage a 15-minute break every hour or so to get some fresh air and a drink. Encourage them to take a break, such as holding a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't understand how much they can end up spending. Many young gamers have no idea how much they can spend on their purchases, so you could set a limit on how much they can spend each week or month. This sort of boundary will help you to manage their expectations but will also make your own sense of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games, or even ignore them. If your child playing a particular game even though it's above their age, then encourage them to discuss their age ratings with you. Encourage them to talk to you about their age ratings and why they're important. You could also discuss to this boundary by talking to your child about the game's content. If you have seen certain age ratings.

MEET OUR EXPERT

David Thompson is a former technology editor, gaming journalist and author of the book *PC Gaming: A History*. He is a former member of the UK's PC Gaming Alliance, a former member of the UK's PC Gaming Alliance, a former member of the UK's PC Gaming Alliance, a former member of the UK's PC Gaming Alliance.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their friends. Encourage your child to set boundaries in place before their friends arrive or online. Encourage them to play in their own space, not in a shared space. Encourage them to play in their own space, not in a shared space. Encourage them to play in their own space, not in a shared space.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside for play is a good idea, but it's important to be flexible. Encourage your child to play with friends, but also encourage them to play with you. Encourage them to play with you, but also encourage them to play with friends.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions when they play. Encourage them to take a break if they feel angry or frustrated. Encourage them to take a break if they feel angry or frustrated. Encourage them to take a break if they feel angry or frustrated.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is that your child will be exposed to trolls. Encourage your child to report and block any trolls they encounter. Encourage your child to report and block any trolls they encounter. Encourage your child to report and block any trolls they encounter.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://open.spotify.com/track/123456789>

Follow us on social media: @nationalonlinesafety

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Celebrating Culture and Difference



Saturday 15th - Parinirvana celebrates buddha's final passing into Nirvana. [Click here to learn more](#)



Wednesday 26th February - Maha Shivaratri is a Hindu festival dedicated to Lord Shiva, observed with prayers and fasting. [Click here to learn more](#)



Friday 28th February is the start of Ramadan - the Islamic holy month of fasting. [Click here to learn more](#)

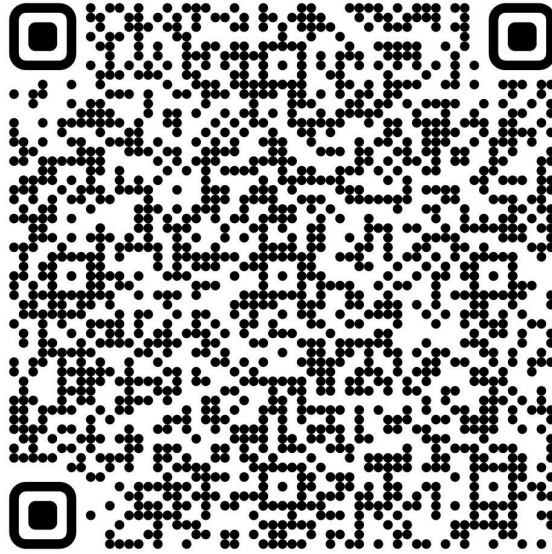
Book at Bedtime - Thursday 6th March



Our favourite event of the year, Book at Bedtime, is happening on Thursday, 6th March from 5pm - 6pm for Years R - 6!

Children are invited to come in their pyjamas and bring a blanket for a cosy evening of storytelling. To make the experience even more special, they should also bring a mug or cup to enjoy a warm hot chocolate while they listen to enchanting tales. We can't wait to see everyone there!

Please [click here](#) or scan the QR code to sign up your child.



Nursery



This week we have enjoyed reading 'The Gingerbread Man.' The children have enjoyed joining in with the repeated phrase, we have made our own gingerbread men in the play dough and have baked our own gingerbread men too. When we opened the oven one ran away and we spent some time searching the room trying to find him!

We have continued to work on recognising shapes, by playing a shape game. The children are doing well with recognising a circle, triangle, square, rectangle and hexagon.

Reception



Reception have had their last Jo Jingles music sessions this week. We have been going weekly since September to take part in a short sessions where we sing, dance and use musical instruments. It has been so lovely to see the children's confidence grow as they move in time to the music.

Our story this week has been 'Kipper's Snowy Day' by Mick Inkpen. The children have really enjoyed this story. We have talked about clothes suitable for different weathers and what a snowy day looks and feels like. The snowy days we had a few weeks ago really helped their knowledge and understanding.

In Maths, we have been 1:1 counting using spots on dominoes and matching them to the corresponding numeral. This is a really easy activity to do at home and because it feels like a game, the children find it fun! We have also discussed odd and even numbers. The children were confident to share their knowledge of this with us.

Have a great half term holiday and remember to continue to read, count and practice writing letters. This can be done with pencil and paper, a paintbrush and water on the garden path or even in their air with their magic fingers!



Year 1



All of the Year 1 staff just wanted to say a huge thank you to all of the parents and carers who were able to join us at our Sewing Session on Tuesday afternoon. The children have been so excited to make their puppets and it has been a topic of conversation daily! The children were absolutely beaming with excitement and it was so lovely to be able to welcome so many of you into our classroom. The children had a lovely time and we hope you enjoy your puppets at home.

This week in English we have been looking at the story Hansel and Gretel. We looked closely at the sweet house which we could see in the story and developed our knowledge around vocabulary to support us in writing a setting description. We used our senses; discussing what the house could smell, taste, look, feel and sound like.

In Art we are finalising our final pieces for our self portraits. We have worked very hard over this last half term to focus on details when drawing; creating various drafts and giving each other very specific feedback to support us in improving.

We are very proud of the progress all of the children have made over this half-term and look forward to seeing what next half term has in store! We hope you have a wonderful holiday!

Year 2



Year 2 have had a brilliant week this week.

In Maths we have started our new topic multiplication and division where we have had to look at equal amounts and share.

In English we finished our last week on reading 'The Queen's orangutan' and wrote what might happen next in the story. The children came up with some fantastic ideas and remembered to use all the skills they have learnt over the past couple of weeks.

In Science we have been looking at germs and how we can stay clean and healthy. The children took part in an investigation where the children had glitter on their hands and they used a paper towel, water or water and soap to see which cleaned their hands the best.

In PE the children have been learning a dance routine, Miss Purdy was so proud of her class when she got invited to watch 2AP's final performance. The video will be able to watch on class dojo!!

Well Done Year 2, we hope you all have a lovely well rested half term, The Year 2 Team

Year 3



What a great week to end this term!

Year 3 have been working so hard across all areas of the curriculum this week.

In Maths, we have been looking at using the 'bus stop method' to divide larger numbers with great success! We have been drawing and working practically which has led to very successful written work. Well done Year 3!

In English, we have had a recap on capital letters, punctuation, conjunction and adjectives this week. We are ensuring that we are very confident in using these all the time so that next half term we can begin to up level our writing even further!

If you or your child wish to, there are LBQ quizzes available

Have a lovely half term, the Year 3 Team.

Year 4



We have had an exciting last week of the half term in Year 4.

In PSHE, the children worked in groups to create a 'potato person' and they were judged by Mrs Shaw! The children worked together so well and fantastic ideas and discussions were had.

In Art, we used polystyrene to create our printing artwork. We first practised using different materials and then used the techniques we learnt in our final piece. The results were amazing !

Swimming

This was 4JB's final week at swimming. After half term 4CBL will begin their lessons. Please ensure the children have their kit each Wednesday and arrive on time to school. We leave at 8.50am.

Have a wonderful break !

Year 5



This week we have created a large sculpture of a Tudor House in DT and completed our small sculptures inspired by Alberto Giacometti's work in art. The children have shown focus, resilience, creativity and teamwork whilst making these. In English we have completed our class reading book 'The Good Turn' and found out about The Windrush generation that the story was based on. We have completed our topic on multiplication and division today and it would be really beneficial if you could continue practising arithmetic questions with your children at home, including times tables, addition and subtraction.

Thank you for completing the permission slips for all of the exciting events we have been on and preparing for in year 5.

Dates for the diary:

Monday 24th February - Youth Orchestra trip - this is the first day back.

Bikeability - unfortunately the date has been postponed for this and we will let you know the new dates as soon as they have been confirmed. You will not need to complete another permission slip for this.

We hope you all have a lovely half-term, Year 5 team

Year 6



Thank you to the parents who attended our recent Y6 SATs information evening. At this meeting, we shared up to date mock SAT results and crucial information about the upcoming Year 6 SATs tests. We also provided details of the **Precision Tutoring Sessions** and **LBO Targeted Sessions** that are on offer from W/C 24th February for 9 weeks until the SATS tests. These sessions would cost in the region of £30 if you approached a private company. **At Unity we are providing these for free but places are limited!** All sessions are filling up fast so if you haven't yet secured your child's place, please [CLICK HERE](#) to get them booked in. You really don't want them to miss out! School and home working together is only of benefit to your child. As we shared at the information evening, children who achieve the expected standard in their Y6 SATs test are more likely to go on to achieve a grade 4/5 at GCSE and GCSE's give your child options for later life! Get booking now!

Star of the Week



- ***RHH - Isla -***
- ***1CL - Aliyah - For having such a positive attitude to learning, always trying her best and being such a kind classroom helper.***
- ***1MT - Elsa - For blowing our socks off with her amazing knowledge of sewing whilst making her puppet!***
- ***2BH - Agatha - For excellent work in maths and for trying super hard with her writing.***
- ***2AP - Edwin - For trying really hard with his maths work.***
- ***3KG - Sienna - For her growing independence in all areas of her learning!***
- ***3HB - Athena - For her excellent resilience, independence and hard work when tackling bus stop method in Maths!***

- **4JB - James - For his presentation in books**
- **4CBL - Alexa - For her leadership skills in group work**
- **5MB - Ethan - For his focus and teamwork in DT**
- **5NO - Roopan - For growing in confidence with his communication.**
- **6TT - Sophia - For showing great resilience**
- **6VA - Raaid - For improving his maths scores by doing extra work at home**

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





The branded uniform will be stocked at Blispham 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 Ragamuffins. Non branded items may be bought from a wide range of retailers.

UNITY UNIFORM




COMPULSORY ITEMS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL UNIFORM 2024/2025
You must wear these items every day to school.

 Plain white shirt No logo or branding	or	 Unity logo jumper Plain black V-neck jumper with Unity logo on the left chest	or	 Unity logo cardigan Plain black cardigan with Unity logo on the left chest	or	 Tailored Skirt Plain black	or	 Trousers Plain black, no logo or branding	or	 Plain black tights No logo, branding or pattern. Available at many retailers.	 Plain black socks
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Optional Uniform

 Shorts Plain black	 Summer dress	 Plain white socks (To be worn with summer dress)	 Black Blazer with the Unity logo
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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
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Unity Academy Footwear

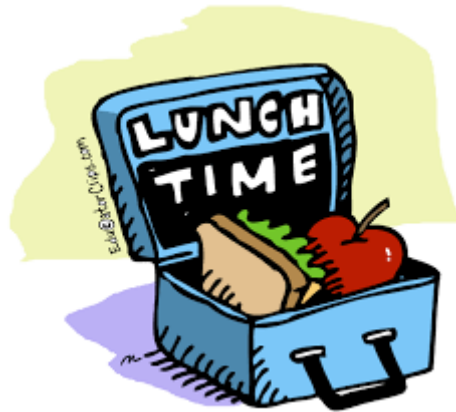
Footwear should be all black with no identifiable markings. If this footwear is a boot it must be no bigger than ankle length. No crocs or sandals are permitted. Trainers are permitted as long as they are fully black. Please check the guide opposite.






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 have due regard to equality laws when considering hair styles. Hairpieces 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 colours (e.g. green, blue etc.)



Lunch time menu for this week



 Monday	 Tuesday	 Wednesday	 Thursday	 Friday
Roasted Vegetable Pasta Bake with Crusty Bread (v) or Cook's Choice Homemade Pizza & Baked Potato Wedges (v)	British Beef Casserole in a Rich Gravy or Plant Power Sausages (v) with Gravy & Yorkshire Pudding	Pork Puff Pastry Twists Mashed Potatoes & Gravy or Broccoli Macaroni Cheese & Garlic Bread (v)	Chicken, Ham & Potato Pie or Sweet Potato & Cauliflower Curry, Rice & Naan Bread (v)	Young's Fish Fingers & Chunky Chips or Meat(less)ball Panini Sub & Chunky Chips (v)