



Unity Academy Primary Newsletter
14/3/2025

Your weekly roundup of all things years N -6!



A message from Mrs. Shaw

A Message From Mrs. Shaw

A shorter one from me this week!

I have spent most of my week this week with Year 6 whilst they did their mock SATs test. I have to say, I was very impressed with their attitude towards the tests. The children have been very resilient and seem determined to want to beat their performance last time which is a fantastic attitude to have. We changed our organisation this time with a view to ensuring the children remain as focused as possible throughout the morning and we are now reflecting on what other improvements we can make to give every child the opportunity to be as successful as they can be.

I was genuinely gutted to miss the Year 3 World Book Day assembly. I know that Ms Brayne and Miss Gleadell were over the moon with the children's performance and really hope that you enjoyed it!

In our RRS Behaviour Curriculum this week, we have focused on being prepared for learning. I spoke to the children about taking responsibility for their own learning! Things like a healthy diet, a good night's sleep and a positive attitude are important in ensuring they are ready for learning. We then went onto talking about the importance of communicating with a Trusted Adult if something or someone is being a barrier to their learning. I used the story

Ruby's Worry by Tom Percival to demonstrate how sharing a worry can help to ease it. [Click here to watch it at home](#) Next week we will move onto solving a problem. This will focus on conflicts with friends and how we can fix them.

Additional INSET day - IMPORTANT

Following the publication of the recent Ofsted report, there is a need to create some additional time for staff training. With this in mind, we are going to add some additional INSET days to the calendar for this academic year. These are training days for staff and children will not attend on these dates. Whilst we know this will be an inconvenience, we are trying to schedule these to be as convenient as possible.

The first of these additional INSET days will be on Tuesday 22nd April 2025. School is closed on Monday 21st April 2025 for Bank Holiday Monday. As such school will now reopen for students on Wednesday 23rd April 2025. The term dates on the website will be updated to reflect this.

There will be two additional INSET days towards the end of the academic year in preparation for September. We will confirm the dates of these as soon as possible.

Diary Dates

- 18th March - Modern Foreign Languages Event at Armfield Academy
- 19th - 26th March - Book Fair in School
- 20th March - Y5 Virtual STEM Day
- 21st March - Lancashire Music Service Music Bus - Year 1
- 21st March - Year 4 World Poetry Day Assembly
- 24th March - Primary Parents Evening
- 27th March - Y3 Scouts Taster Session
- W/c 31st March - Read, Write Inc Assessment Week
- 1st April - Nursery parents Easter Crafts
- 2nd April - Dan Worsley in Y5
- 3rd April - Y6 Trip to UCLan
- Friday 4th April - School closes for Easter holiday at **the normal time of 3:10pm**. Sorry if there has been any confusion around this time, but it is a normal finish time on this day.
- 22nd April - Additional INSET day, school is closed to pupils.
- 23rd April - School reopens for Summer 1.

And finally ... Sam is home from University this weekend, so I am really looking forward to spending time with him and Evie. Have a great weekend everyone!

Parents Evening - 24th March 2024



I am pleased to invite you to book an appointment with your child's class teacher at our upcoming Parents' Evening which will be held on Monday, 24th March 2025, to discuss your child's progress, achievements and next steps. These meetings play a vital role in ensuring your child receives the best possible support, both in school and at home, and allows us to work together to provide the encouragement and guidance they need to progress and thrive.

Appointments will be available between 3:30 pm and 7:00 pm on Monday, 24th March, and will be five minutes long. Prior to Parents' Evening, you will receive a mid-year written progress report which will give you the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and next steps with their class teacher.

We are trialling a change to our reporting procedures this academic year and instead of a full end of year report, you will receive a more detailed report now about your child's progress so far. There will also be targets for Reading, Writing and Maths and some suggestions for how you could support at home. At the end of the year, the report will include a personalised general comment. It will also show if they have achieved the age expected standards and there will be some suggested next steps for the next academic year. Our reasoning behind this is so that you have a clear picture of where your child is in their learning and therefore can support at home, rather than it being at the end of the year.

Parents' Evening appointments can be booked via the MCAS (My Child At School) App by selecting 'Parents' Evening' from the options menu. The booking system is open from today and will close at noon on Wednesday, 19th March 2025.

If you do not have access to the MCAS App, please complete the electronic form by scanning the QR code below, an appointment will be made and the time will be confirmed with you. If you have more than one child in school, please complete the form for each child separately. Moving forward, all Parents Evenings bookings will be via MCAS so please download the app ASAP.

We look forward to welcoming you into school on 24th March to discuss your child's progress so far this year. If you have any questions regarding Parents' Evening or booking an appointment, you can contact Mr Cooper via the main school office.



Community Corner



Children & Young People's Support

Parent & Carers Virtual Workshops

Are you a parent or carer in Blackpool?

Join our free virtual Peer Support workshops, for families with children from age 5- 25.

Thursday 6th March Introduction to Mental Health & Resilience

Thursday 3rd April Talking to Your Child About Mental Health

Tuesday 8th May Exploring & Understanding Emotions



Tailored support for families across Blackpool (inc Fylde & Wyre)



More details here

For more information contact sharonsutcliffe@lancashiremind.org.uk



Being A Parent



These fantastic free sessions are run by friendly local parents. They provide practical tips and advice on how to bring up confident happy and co-operative children.

The group lasts for 9 weeks and free childcare is available.

Time	Venue	Starting	Ending
6.00pm – 8.00pm	Online using Google Meet	Tuesday 22 nd April	Tuesday 2 nd July
9.30am – 11.30am	North Family Hub Dingle Ave FY3 7NX	Wednesday 23 rd April	Wednesday 3 rd July

Topics covered include:

- Communicating with your child
- Understanding their behaviour
- Discipline strategies
- Listening skills
- Coping with stress

"The course wasn't what I expected at all. It's shown me that I'm not alone and given me the confidence boost I needed. I've learned there's no such thing as a perfect parent and my relationship with my son has grown so much stronger."

For more information or to book, contact Blackpool Learning Rooms on 07796 994783 or email learning.rooms@blackpool.gov.uk



EMPOWERING PEOPLE
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES



Education & Skills
Partnership



BLACKPOOL LEARNING ROOMS



BUSINESS
IN THE
COMMUNITY

Community First Aid Course

Do you worry about how you would cope in a
medical emergency?

This free informal course is designed to build
confidence in dealing with everyday
emergencies with basic First Aid

Lunch will be provided on the day!

Date: Friday 11th April 2025

Time: 9:30am to 2:30pm

Venue: Claremont Park Community Centre, Claremont Rd,
Blackpool FY1 2QJ

Contact Us!

To book your place please email:
Laura.James@bitc.org.uk



This course is funded by the UK Government
through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.



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>91.52</i>	<i>5</i>
• <i>1CL</i>	<i>97.77</i>	<i>7</i>
• <i>1MT</i>	<i>95.69</i>	<i>8</i>
• <i>2BH</i>	<i>93.23</i>	<i>5</i>
• <i>2AP</i>	<i>90.00</i>	<i>3</i>
• <i>3KG</i>	<i>98.50</i>	<i>8</i>
• <i>3HB</i>	<i>94.50</i>	<i>7</i>
• <i>4JB</i>	<i>88.84</i>	<i>3</i>
• <i>4CBL</i>	<i>92.41</i>	<i>9</i>
• <i>5MB</i>	<i>95.83</i>	<i>14</i>
• <i>5NO</i>	<i>95.83</i>	<i>12</i>
• <i>6TT</i>	<i>96.12</i>	<i>1</i>
• <i>6VA</i>	<i>97.50</i>	<i>7</i>

Keeping children safe!

KEEP OUR 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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

SNAP STREAK
97
DAYS

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

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Celebrating Culture and Difference



Ramadan - the Islamic holy month of fasting enters it's Third week.[Click here to learn more](#)



Monday 17th is St Patrick's Day - celebrating the Patron Saint of Ireland.[Click here to learn more.](#)



Thursday 20th is the Spring Equinox. Celebrating the start of Spring in Pagan traditions. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Nursery



This week we have continued our people who help us topic, our story is 'Real Superheroes.' The children this week have drawn a picture of what they want to be when they grow up, they have discussed the different roles of people in our community who help us. The children have also continued working on repeating patterns, we have made the, more complex patterns e.g. red, red, yellow, red, red, yellow.

We have also started work on colour mixing, the children did well with predicting what two colours mixed together would make.

Reception



Year 1



Another lovely week in Year 1!

In Maths we are progressing our knowledge surrounding place value and have been working on building numbers between 20 and 50. The children really wowed us when they were challenged to create numbers using base 10; focusing on tens and ones.

In History this half term we are learning all about people who help us. Our learning last week focused on Florence Nightingale and the significance she had within history and changes in hospital care. This week we have been learning all about Mary Seacole, her life and the difference she made. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about these significant figures and have retained lots of interesting facts very well. We are very impressed Year 1!

In Science, we have continued our learning surrounding plants. Last week we planted various seeds in our outdoor area and will observe them closely to see how they change over time. This week we have focused on the different parts of a plant. Our prior knowledge from Reception helped us greatly and the children have retained lots of information and were able to use this to support them in their independent learning. Well done Year 1!

Year 2



What a brilliant week we have had in Year 2!!

In English we have come back to reading the Queen's knickers book and have been looking at different features of newspaper reports ready to start writing our own next week.

In Maths we have continued with our multiplication and division topic. These week we have been identifying odd and even numbers and understanding that even numbers can be divided by 2. We have used counters to show our working out.

In Science we have looked at the frog life cycle and compared it to our butterfly life cycle we made last week.

In Geography we have been looking at the physical features of Australia and drew these into our books.

Well done Year 2!! We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Year 3



What another busy, and exciting week, in year 3!

This week, we performed our World Book Day Assembly. Ms Brayne and Miss Gleadell were so proud of everyone involved. The children have all worked so hard on this performance and I'm sure everyone can agree they read with confidence, enthusiasm and really did themselves proud! During part of our assembly, we discussed the '20 is plenty' reading strategy and the impact it has on children's education. **20 minutes a day can expose your child to 1.8 million new words a year!**

In Maths, we have begun our topic on fractions. Everyone has worked really hard to understand terms like 'numerator', 'denominator' and 'unit and non-unit fractions'. We will be continuing to look at, compare and count in fractions over the next week. There are lots of fractions challenges you can do at home - cutting up paper, pizzas, or even chocolate bars and working out fractions of amounts. Please challenge us on our times table knowledge!

Have a lovely weekend.





We've had a busy and exciting week! Our focus has been on poetry, metaphors, and lots of fun in maths.

World Poetry Day Rehearsals:

In celebration of World Poetry Day, we've begun rehearsing for our special assembly. The students are diving deep into the beauty of poetry, exploring metaphors, and learning how to bring words to life. It's shaping up to be a wonderful performance, and we can't wait to share it with you!

Reminder: Please don't forget to send back the slips for the assembly so we can finalise all the details.

Maths - Improper Fractions:

In maths, we've been tackling fractions, with a particular focus on improper fractions. The students have been working hard, and it's great to see their progress as they gain confidence with this important topic.

Times Table Rockstars Competition:

The competition is heating up! Year 4 is taking on the teachers in a Times Table Rockstars battle. It's been a fun and engaging way for the students to improve their times table skills, and we look forward to seeing who will come out on top!

Reading Books and Test Scores:

We're also thrilled to report a big improvement in students bringing in their reading books and scores on their tests. It's fantastic to see the positive impact this is having on their progress, and we encourage everyone to keep up the great work!

Parents Evening:

Don't forget to book your slot for Parents Evening! The booking system will close on **Wednesday, 19th March**, so be sure to reserve your appointment before then.

Thanks again for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you at our World Poetry Day assembly!

The Year 4 Team

Year 5



Year 5 have had a great week! Firstly, we would like to thank the children for their behaviour while year 6 have been working hard in their Mock SATs. They have certainly been Ready, Respectful and Safe!

Geography

Year 5 are in the middle of writing an extended piece of writing about Antarctica. They are adding to their writing each week, once they have learned about their essential knowledge for the week. They are looking fantastic and we are really proud of their efforts to produce an independent piece of writing!

Maths

Year 5 have begun a new unit this week, learning about decimals. This can be a tricky concept and we are proud of their efforts to learning about decimals up to two places. Great effort!

Bikeability

We are aware we have not yet updated you on the new dates for our Bikeability sessions as we are still trying to organise these dates. As soon as we have a confirmed date by Blackpool Council, we will update you. Thank you for your patience with this.

Have a great weekend!

The

Year 6



Star of the Week



- **RHH - Raine - For fantastic engagement with her peers and group work this week!**
- **1CL - Gracie-Lee - For being an amazing addition to our class, already being such a role model and an 'always' person and for producing some amazing work, we are lucky to have you!**
- **1MT - Blake - For always showing his teachers that he is ready for and engaged with his learning; you are an excellent role model Blake!**
- **2BH - Yethumi - For being an always person and trying hard in everything she does.**
- **2AP - Aaron-James - For trying really hard with his reading.**
- **3KG - Eli - For always being ready to learn and having a positive attitude towards his learning! Keep it up!**
- **3HB - Ellie-Grace - For being a shining star during our Year 3 assembly - ready, helping others and showing a respectful, sensible attitude!**
- **4JB - Dia - For being a fabulous new member of our class. Welcome to Unity!**
- **4CBL - Niyon - For the effort he is putting into learning his times tables**
- **5MB - Summer - For always doing her best in everything she does and being helpful to others.**
- **5NO - Erika - For fantastic engagement with her lessons this week. She has certainly shown she is Ready, Respectful and Safe!**
- **6TT - Ian - Amazing effort in maths sats. Blew me away with his answers.**
- **6VA - Sophia - For great progress in her maths and increased confidence**

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 Blispham Clothing (01263 276847) and Ragamuffins (01263 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.

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

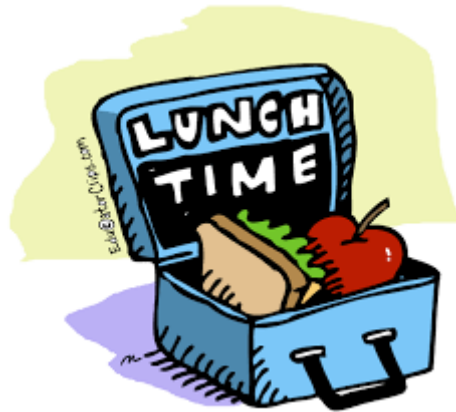
Unity Academy Footwear

Footwear should be all black with no identifiable markings. If this footwear is a boot it must be no bigger than ankle length. No clogs 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 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)