



Unity Academy Primary Newsletter
16/5/2025

Your weekly roundup of all things years N -6!



A message from Mrs. Shaw

A Message From Mrs. Shaw

A short one from me this week! What a week it has been at Unity!

A very busy week and most of my time has been spent involved in the administration of the SATs tests. I am so incredibly proud of the resilience and perseverance that our amazing Year 6 children have shown this week! They have arrived at school for breakfast together and have been laughing, joking and supporting each other before putting on their game faces and tackling the tests with pure determination. All I ever ask is that they try their very best and believe me, they have! Well done Year 6!

Thank you also to all the other children and staff in school who have continued with learning and been very considerate of Year 6 and the need to be focused!

Our primary RRS Behaviour Curriculum was delivered by Miss Gleadell this week. It was focused on Growth Mindset - Making Mistakes - using the book 'Oops' by Barney Saltzberg. Helping children understand that it's okay to make mistakes is one of the most important lessons we can teach. Mistakes are a natural part of learning, helping children build resilience, creativity, and problem-solving skills. When children feel safe to stumble and try again, they become more confident, willing to take on challenges, and better equipped to handle life's ups and downs. By embracing mistakes, we show them that growth often

comes from setbacks, turning every misstep into a valuable stepping stone. Next week we will focus on **taking responsibility for our actions!**

Diary Dates

- W/c 19th May - RWI Assessment Week
- 23rd May - School closes for half term and reopens on Monday 2nd June at 8:40am
- 3rd/ 4th June - Reception Zoo Trip
- 9th- 13th June - Phonics Screening Testing Week
- 13th June - Zoolab in Nursery
- 16th - 20th June - Blackpool Youth Games Week

And finally ... The weather looks nice again this weekend so get that sun cream on and have a good one!

Community Corner



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



	Attendance %	Late marks
• RHH	95.54	4
• 1CL	97.77	6
• 1MT	96.55	6

• 2BH	90.76	4
• 2AP	91.67	4
• 3KG	96.20	7
• 3HB	94.79	7
• 4JB	96.76	4
• 4CBL	96.55	13
• 5MB	95.69	4
• 5NO	87.92	1
• 6TT	100	0
• 6VA	95.09	1

Keeping children safe!



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

2 AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.

4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel..." or "I think..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to inflame the situation.

6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

8 SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each other.

9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.

10 REFLECT AND LEARN

After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement.

Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.



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

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

AGE RESTRICTION
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WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of digital LEGO, certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 8 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



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Celebrating Culture and Difference



Nursery



This week in Nursery we have continued with the lifecycle topic and have learnt all about the lifecycle of a butterfly. The children have enjoyed watching a video of how a cocoon is made. The children have also made their own butterfly, we painted half of it and folded it over to make symmetrical pattern. The children have been very helpful with looking after the plants in the garden and also their own seeds that they planted last week.

Reception



In Reception this week we have been reading Jack and the Beanstalk and Jack Breaks the Beanstalk. We have discussed the difference in each book, such as characters, setting and story line. In Maths we have been learning about 2D shapes, rotating and manipulating them to make our own jigsaw puzzles and shape pictures. We have also learnt about how to be a good friend and how to solve conflict.

Don't forget, on Tuesday 20th May at 2.30pm we have our Gardening Parent and Child workshop where we will be creating a plant pot and planting a seed to take home. If you wish to attend please follow the link below or scan the QR code.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebrb0uCjD3bo4qr0-qs6LZliLvAFArAA4bOXjjv8KAWa6sA/viewform?usp=header>



Have a lovely weekend!

Year 1



What a wonderful week in Year 1!

This week in Art we have continued with our learning surrounding sculptures, consolidating our knowledge through creating our final piece of artwork. We have developed our skills in cutting, moulding, twisting, joining, rolling and coiling materials to support us in building our own sculpture.

In English this week we have read the wordless story 'Flotsam'. This was a different text type for Year 1 as we usually base our English lessons around books with interesting vocabulary and imaginative stories. However, as this story only contained pictures, we had to become the authors this week; developing our own vocabulary and creating our own narratives using our imaginations. The children did incredibly well with this, especially with the addition of their new English books. Well done Year 1!

In Science this week, we had lots of fun completing one of our Crest Awards; creating a minibeast habitat. The children thoroughly enjoyed designing their tins and mugs and sourcing natural materials from our environment to complete their minibeast homes. There were wonderful discussions about where different minibeasts live. We look forward to adding some of these to our outdoor area and observing the minibeasts which join us!

We hope you have a lovely weekend, Miss Tench and Miss Lee



What a great week year 2 have had!

In English we have been learning about apostrophes for contractions. We have also been writing in our new English books and the presentation and pride that has been put into these books have blown Miss Purdy and Miss Helsby away.

In Maths we have continued our fractions topic and have been looking at halves and quarters. On Friday we got to use a whole cake to find a half and a quarter and even got to eat it.

In science we have been labelling the different parts of a plant and a tree and recapped what plants need to grow.

In history we have been learning about Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth and look at why they are important figures in history.

We have also enjoyed doing some of our LBQ quizzes on the iPads to quiz ourselves on the topics we have already learnt.

Well done Year 2, keep up the hard work, only 1 more week to go!!

Year 3



Another busy week in year 3!

This week, we finished our amazing diary entries linked to our topic book Egyptian Cinderella. We used expanded noun phrases and great detail to express emotions and events

wonderfully! We have been focusing on when is best to use a, an or the to improve our grammar skills also this week.

In Maths, we are now looking at Money. Please test us on this at home - ask us to count change, get us to help with paying for the shopping or see if we can recognise different coins!

In Science, we planted seeds as the beginning of a scientific experiment to see if the number of seeds in a pot affects the height and growth of plants. We predict the pot with less seeds is going to be the biggest!

Please continue to read 3 times weekly and ensure that reading records and books are in school every day.

In year 3, it is down to the children to **change their own reading books** and they can do this **every** morning.



A great week for Year 4 this week !

In English, we have been writing character descriptions of Akimbo from The Akimbo adventures. The children have been practicing including expanded noun phrases and a variety of conjunctions.

In Science, we have been investigating using classification keys to classify living things. We drew our own and enjoyed thinking of suitable questions.

Times tables

Children are working extremely hard on remembering their times tables in preparation for the Multiplication check in June. They will have come home tonight with their heatmap. Please can children focus on practicing the ones in amber or red.

Have a lovely weekend, The Year 4 team

Year 5



Another fantastic week completed in year 5! It feels like we don't have many left now!

Firstly, we would like to thank year 5 for their patience this week, as Mrs Obertelli and Mrs Bateman have supported with Year 6 SATs. This has meant that the children have had to adapt their week and work in a much quieter setting than they are sometimes used to, so we just want to say a huge thanks to the children for respecting year 6 during their important week this week.

In English we have caught up lots on our book, Holes, and found out more about what happens - it may be worth asking your children what has happened so far and testing their comprehension skills as we have read at least 17 chapters this week - wow!

In History, the children have also found out that life was very different for children in school back in the Victorian era, and I am not sure they would want to ever go to a Victorian school!

Have a wonderful weekend, hopefully it will be another nice sunny one! The Year 5 Team

Year 6



We have finally reached the end of our busiest and most important week of the year in Year 6; we are so proud of the effort, resilience and perseverance demonstrated by our students! Revision in class has been frequent but fun, whether in English and Maths lessons, Learning by Questions or in our special sessions with Mr Cooper and Mrs Henderson. In the words of Archie last Friday, "Do you know? This English this week has been amazing!" Who knew revision could be so much fun?!

We have ended the week in a well deserved relaxed manner, continuing transition sessions with Mrs Taylor, our Unstoppable programme with BFC and a little film treat on Friday afternoon. In the coming weeks, attitude to learning credits will be totalled and subsequent trips organised, as rewards to those who earned at least 15 credits for their efforts put into additional study time. More details to follow.

Test results are due to be released in July and will therefore be shared with you towards the end of the Summer term. Good luck to all.

Enjoy a very well deserved rest this weekend and well done once more to our wonderful Year 6 students!

Star of the Week



- ***RHH - Roman - For superb progress in phonics!***
- ***1CL - Leo - For being ready, respectful and safe. Being focused with his work and for making a real effort to be the best he can be.***
- ***1MT - Daniel - For always being the most wonderful role model and epitomising our school values!***
- ***2BH - Kai - For working extremely hard to perfect his handwriting.***
- ***2AP - Sneha - For always putting 100% effort into all her work and writing a fantastic story.***
- ***3KG - Jettson - For always being an amazing role model to his friends and putting 100% effort into his work!***
- ***3HB - Maggie - For her incredible English work! Very imaginative and well written.***
- ***4JB - Dia - For always putting in 100% effort when contributing to class discussions and group work. Great attitude to learning.***
- ***4CBL - Anass - For the effort he has put into his work this week. Well done Anass !***
- ***5MB - Anaiah - For super focus and attitude to learning.***
- ***5NO - Tia - For adapting so well to all the changes that have taken place this week. Superstar!***
- ***6TT - All of 6TT - For the effort and resilience they have shown this week.***
- ***6VA - All of 6VA - For their effort, resilience and perseverance this week***

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 (01253 276047) and Ragamuffins (01253 395717). 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 No logo, branding or pattern. Available at many retailers.
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Optional Uniform


 Shorts Plain black	 Summer dress Plain white	 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 clogs or sandals are permitted. Trainers are permitted as long as they are fully black. Please check the guide opposite

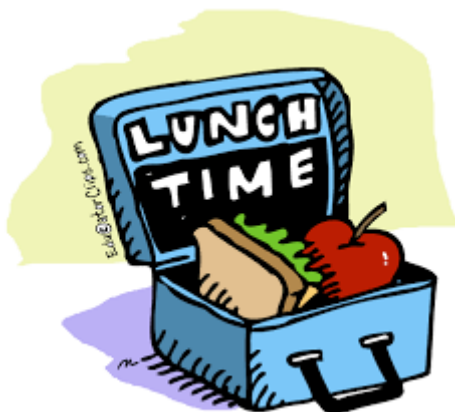
	
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Jewellery and Hair

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.)

	
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Lunch time menu for this week



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Roasted Vegetable Pasta Bake (v) Or Homemade Pizza Margherita (v)	Roast/Pulled Pork, Roast Potatoes, Stuffing & Gravy Or Vegetarian Spaghetti Bolognese & Garlic Bread (v)	Chicken Tikka Curry, Wholegrain Rice & Naan Bread Or Cheese & Tomato Pasta with Wholemeal Bread (v)	Vegan Meatballs, Tomato Sauce & Wholemeal Pasta (v) Or Vegetable & Tomato Quesadilla & Savoury Rice (v)	Quorn Nuggets & Oven Baked Chips (v) Or Golden Coated Fish Fingers & Oven Baked Chips