



Unity Academy Primary Newsletter
24/1/2025

Your weekly roundup of all things years N -6!



A message from Mrs. Shaw

A Message From Mrs. Shaw

I have literally bounced from one meeting to another this week, it has been incredibly busy! Let's see what has been going on in school this week!

Teaching and Learning

I was very pleased to hear that Y3 have been sharing a book with no words this week. Sometimes books without words are even trickier to use and often children don't think they are actually reading but they so are! Being able to tell a story using the pictures and not the text takes some real skill. Well done Year 3!

Year 4 went on their Tram trip this week. I was very pleased to hear that they had all thoroughly enjoyed it and had behaved very well. Fantastic Year 4! Poppy brought her writing in response to the Tram Trip to show me yesterday. She had written a really descriptive piece detailing what she saw and how she felt. Seeing Blackpool Tower, the Golden Mile and the illuminations weren't the highlight for her though. She enjoyed seeing Starbucks! I do love our children, they always make me smile!

Miss Purdy and Aaron from Year 2 came to visit me with his English book. He had been learning about expanded noun phrases but had also been working extremely hard on

improving his handwriting and, my goodness me, you should see the progress he has made from the start of the year. Excellent Aaron, good boy!

In our RRS curriculum this week, we have focused on the importance of having 'Good Manners'. I did a little experiment on Monday and held the door into assembly open myself to see how many children remembered to say 'thank you'. If I am honest, I expected far more than I actually got. I did hear lots of children using 'please' and 'thank you' directly after the assembly and, hopefully with the focus this week, we will see a huge improvement when I do it again! Next week we will move onto a focus of Respect and being the best I can be!

Year 6 mock SATs

This week Y6 have completed a set of Mock SATs tests. We do these so that the children know what to expect when the real ones take place. It also means we can provide real precision teaching that is pitched and targeted at their individual needs! Most children have tried very hard and are progressing which is very pleasing to see. Once we have fully marked them and have an updated picture of each individual child's current point and what they need to work on, we will be inviting parents to attend a meeting where we will share our ideas for supporting the children to hit the expected standard. We have limited time with the children in school and really need some support from families, so please excuse us being quite pushy when it comes to the importance of the Y6 SATs tests.

Children leaving early (All Parents/Carers) - We have seen a significant increase in the number of children who are being picked up early. The reasons are varied but for some children, it is most days. If you do need to pick your child up early for an appointment, please provide us with 24 hours notice and the evidence to enable us to authorise the absence.

ADHD Northwest - There is still time for parents and carers to sign up to the next course which starts on 28th January. Please see the attached flyer for full details - The course is for parents / carers who have a child under 25 that they think may have ADHD. A diagnosis is NOT required and so this is especially beneficial to adults with children waiting to be assessed / diagnosed. Referrals can be made by a professional or by the parent / carer. Please click on the website link for details - [Contact Us | Adhd North West \(reception06660.wixsite.com\)](https://reception06660.wixsite.com)

A message from Mr Cooke ... Uniform

Parents will recall that we spent some time consulting with children and parents last year regarding uniform changes. We chose the options preferred by both parents and children. These changes were designed to support parents with affordability and to work with children to achieve a uniform they were more comfortable with. On the whole these

changes have been well received and supported by parents and children alike. There are a few areas where I need to remind you about expectations.

- Students can not wear leggings or tracksuit bottoms for school (unless in Nursery). They are able to wear black trousers. Please ensure children are not wearing leggings or tracksuit bottoms to school.
- We changed the rules to allow plain black footwear with no identifiable markings. This has allowed students to wear plain black trainers and supported parents with the cost of footwear. White trainers, black trainers with white markings and black Crocs are not acceptable footwear for school.
- The black V neck jumper with a logo is a compulsory part of the uniform. We are happy to allow primary aged students to wear black cardigans with the Unity logo as an alternative. This is the only item that requires a logo and we would ask parents to support us with ensuring students are in the correct uniform.

Diary Dates

- 28th January - Dan Worsley in Y6
- 30th January/ 6th, 13th February - Y3/5 Barclays Life Skills Session
- 30th January/ 6th, 13th February - Reading & Rugby
- 3rd February - Schools Alive - Rehearsal in day and an evening performance
- 4th February - Y5 Trip to UCLAN
- 4th February - AIM High Maths Day
- 6th February - Y5 UCLAN Trip
- 7th February - SEND Drop -In
- 14th February - School closes for half term
- 24th February - School reopens for Spring 2

And finally ...

The weeks are simply flying by! I can't believe we are half way through the half term already. Have a great weekend everyone.

Community Information



ADHD North West

Supporting Families



ADHD PARENT EMPOWERMENT & TRAINING COURSE

JOIN US FOR 6 SESSIONS OVER 3 WEEKS

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
9.30AM OR 6PM

We invite you to join us on a journey to
unlock your child's full potential.

Our expert team is dedicated to providing you with
tools, strategies and support necessary to help your
child thrive.

Through a personalised, step-by-step approach, we
will work closely with you to offer support that
addresses your child's unique needs and aspirations.



START
DATE
28TH JANUARY
2025



Visit www.adhdnorthwest.org.uk for more details and to
access the application form or call us on 01254 886886

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 4:15 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!

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>99.11</i>	<i>6</i>
• <i>1CL</i>	<i>94.44</i>	<i>6</i>
• <i>1MT</i>	<i>96.98</i>	<i>12</i>

- **2BH** 97.92 3
- **2AP** 93.75 7
- **3KG** 94.50 7
- **3HB** 91.83 9
- **4JB** 88.89 5
- **4CBL** 98.21 17
- **5MB** 92.92 14
- **5NO** 92.44 12
- **6TT** 90.00 10
- **6VA** 96.25 7

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, have a look at www.thenationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's popularity soared that more than half of two-year-olds in the UK have played it. In Roblox, players create their own gaming experiences with 3D avatars and avatars, which can then be shared online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS
Roblox encourages players to interact online (including in group chat functions) which could expose children to risks. Scammers often attempt to trick young Robloxers from teaching them. Children may have even heard that in-game chat has some filters, but it isn't perfect. Scammers will send unwanted messages, while predators can reach out to children directly.

ONLINE DATERS
These are also called 'daters' and are people who meet in person. An older or more mature adult can be a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is reported in the Roblox community, particularly in the game 'Adopt Me!'. Some players who Roblox users have been designed with online dating functionality in mind, and this will not always be obvious.

PUBLIC SERVERS
While this private or VIP servers which have access to Roblox's community, usually a pre-set payment. Most Roblox parents will restrict their children from public servers which have an off-kind of respect. Some games have an interaction, game features, therefore, will put children at greater risk of contact from strangers than others.

IN-APP PURCHASES
Roblox is free to download and play, and there is no limit on how many items you can buy. However, there are some extra costs. These are called 'Robux' (the in-game currency). Players can win Robux by creating experiences on the game using real money. People can also buy extra Robux from the game, and it is also possible to purchase a private or VIP server.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET PARENTAL CONTROLS
Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained in the game's parental controls. It is essential to enter the correct date of birth for younger players as Roblox will automatically apply age-appropriate chat filters. This game also allows parents and carers to set privacy settings and monitor their child's account.

DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING
Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – particularly those who are trying to trick them into scam attempts. Keep in mind that the game allows you to disable messages from anyone who has been added as a friend on your account.

PRIVATE SERVERS
If a child has friends to play Roblox with, paying for a private or VIP server increases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, the player who owns the game could invite other people – who may not be child-friendly – to join them. Additionally, private servers can be set up to bypass Roblox's safety features on the game. It is important to discuss with children who are playing with.

MONITOR SPENDING
If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to spend money on items in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help. Using any existing financial services (such as bank cards) automatically apply age-appropriate chat filters. This game also allows parents and carers to set privacy settings and monitor their child's account.

DEALING WITH STRANGERS
At some point in their development, children must learn how to deal with strangers online. This means that it is important to report any users who are upsetting them or causing uncomfortable situations. Talking to their carer about what to do next. They should never tell a stranger – can help them understand how to communicate more safely with other people online.

Meet Our Expert
Claire Goodwin is a journalist who has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry for over 20 years, providing expertise with her knowledge of games and gaming culture. She is the author of 'Landscape of Gaming' and is currently working on her next project including game development and writing non-fiction books.

WakeUpWednesday
The National College

www.thenationalcollege.com
@wake_up_weds /www.thenationalcollege @wake.up.wednesday @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Release date: 13.10.2023 (last reviewed: 30.05.2024)

Celebrating Culture and Difference





Monday 27th marks Lailat al-Miraj an islamic observance of the prophet Muhammad's night journey from mecca to Jerusalem. [Click here to learn more](#)



Wednesday 29th marks the start of the Chinese New Year - the Year of the Snake. [Click here to learn more](#)

Nursery



This week in Nursery we have been reading the story 'One Winter's day.' We have been continuing to talk about the season of winter and how the environment changes. The

children have spoken about the different types of weather we have been seeing and how we keep ourselves warm.

We have been using our listening ears to hear initial sound in words and have attempted to write one of these letters.

The children have also explored ice in the tuff tray and have spoken about how it feels and what happens as it heats

Reception



This week we have been reading Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The children have drawn maps for how the three bears can find Goldilocks and been using their phonic knowledge to write simple words and sentences about the story.

In Maths, we have focused on composition of the number 5 e.g. what it looks like and how to make it. The children have tried very hard. Keep practising at home!

In PSHE, we have followed the RRS Behaviour Curriculum and talked about 'Good Manners'. The children had a good understanding of what manners are and how we use them. We have heard lots of 'please' and 'thank you' this week which has been lovely.

We have also been looking at different ways of celebrating New Year as we move on next week to celebrating Chinese New Year.

Please ensure that the children are reading three times a week, this will support their phonics knowledge.

Have a great weekend, The Reception Team!

Year 1



What another great week we have had in Year 1!

We have been designing our own shoes in English and using lots of adventurous vocabulary to describe our creations. This is linked to our Elves and the Shoemaker book we have been focusing on.

In Maths we have been looking at number lines. We have shown some real resilience when tackling tricky reasoning questions. I am very impressed with the children's explanations and working out this week.

In Geography we have been completing a double page spread demonstrating all the facts we have learnt about the Pacific Ocean.

Please ensure that the children are reading three times a week, this will support their phonics knowledge.

Year 2



What another fantastic week Year 2 have had!!

In English we have been learning all about expanded noun phrases and using these when writing a letter to Captain Blackbeard asking if we can join him on his next trip to Scurvy Sands. In Maths we have started our new topic all about money, we have been looking at different coins and notes and identifying the difference between pounds and pence. In science we have been looking at what humans need to survive and comparing things we might want and things we need. In art we have been looking at how to create a background using a flat wash, variegated wash and a graded wash using the water colour paints.

Well done Year 2, we hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Year 3



This week in Maths we have been focusing on 8 times tables, please continue to practice 2, 3, 4 and 5s at home as these will support all areas of the upcoming Maths curriculum.

In English, we have been looking at the story 'Journey' - a story book with no words! We have used inspiration from the story, and our imagination, to create our own 'magical world' that we could travel to. We are focusing on sentence structure and adjectives.

In Science, we have been looking at friction and conducted an experiment using a toy car and different surfaces. We plotted our results on a bar chart.

We have had our Art week this week, we have been focusing on creating digital art. We started by drawing repeat patterns, then took our own photographs to create pattern designs.

Please continue to read 3 times weekly and record this

Year 4



It has been a lovely week in Year 4!

On Tuesday we went on our trip on a tram through Blackpool. We saw lots of attractions that we have been discussing in our History topic of Tourism in Blackpool, including Blackpool Tower, Pleasure Beach and the three piers. The children were so well behaved and positive even though we had to walk in the rain.

We then wrote all about our trip in our English lessons and the children worked hard on making sure they include all the necessary spellings and grammar.

Today, we had a very special visit from Dan Worsley who worked with us on creating a perfect witch character which we will use in our story writing next week. As always, Dan had them gripped on his every word !

Have a lovely weekend! The Year 4 team

Year 5



Year 5 have had a fantastic week! They have shown so much progress in their Fractions unit in maths - I think we can agree year 5 are fractions whizzes!

We would like to remind you of our upcoming trips taking place. Please can you make sure you have returned your consent forms and paid any relevant deposits:

- 5NO UCLan trip: Tuesday 4th February

- 5MB - UCLan trip: Thursday 6th February
- 5NO Bikeability: Your child will have been given a specific date between 24th February and 28th February.
- 5MB Bikeability: Your child will have been given a specific date between 3rd March and 7th March.
- Year 6 residential: First deposit and consent form is due by 11th February

Have a wonderful weekend! The Y5 team

Year 6



Well done to all Year 6 students who have demonstrated a positive attitude towards their mock SATs this week; lots of progress has been made since the last ones taken in November. Well done everybody and keep working hard! Results will be shared in due course along with some leaflets with key information you will find useful. The next mock SATs will take place the week beginning 10th March.

If you have any concerns around exam stress at all, we can recommend a company called Kooth, who have offered supportive assemblies to our Unity students in previous years. At home, Kooth can offer children free, anonymous counselling without the usual wait times, as well as moderated peer support and self help tools. Find out more here: [Kooth Education](#)

The links below allow you as parents/carers to access free meetings to find out more about what Kooth is, how children can sign up and how the company keeps your children safe online. You can keep your cameras off if preferred:

[31st March 12:30 - 1:00](#)

[31st March 6:00 - 6:30](#)

[3rd April 6:30 - 7:00](#)

Enjoy a restful weekend after a very busy week!

Star of the Week



- ***RHH - Adam - For growing in confidence and showing enthusiasm for learning.***
- ***1CL - Isbel - For her enthusiasm this week and trying so hard in her work.***
- ***1MT - Esme - For being an absolute superstar this week; supporting others, showing enthusiasm towards her learning and being a wonderful role model!***
- ***2BH - Darcie-Mae - For being such a supportive role model and going above and beyond to progress her reading skills.***
- ***2AP - Allaiyah - For producing some fantastic work in maths and English.***
- ***3KG - Lian - For always trying to challenge herself and going the extra mile in her work!***
- ***3HB - Carter - For always giving 100% effort to all he does, even going above and beyond to complete work at home!***
- ***4JB - Sophie - For being helpful towards others by helping them resolve problems and complete their work.***
- ***4CBL - Tyler - For his enthusiasm for learning this week.***
- ***5MB - Arleen - For being a role model in class and supporting members of staff***
- ***5NO - Macai - For settling in so well at Unity on his first week.***

- **6TT - Thomas - For the effort he has made in his mock SATs this week.**
- **6VA - Mae - For the progress she has made in her mock SATs this week. Mae has been super resilient!**

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

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

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


 Shorts Plain black	 Summer dress	 Plain white socks (To be worn with summer dress)	 Black Blazer with the Unity logo	 Red polo shirt	 Black shorts	 Black Pumps or Trainers
---	--	---	---	--	---	---

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

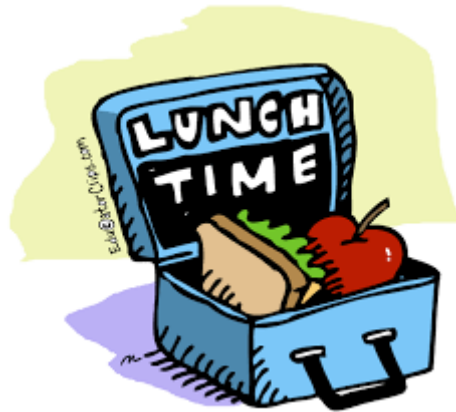
Unity Academy Footwear | 






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

Jewellery and Hair
A maximum of 2 earrings can be worn in each ear. These should be stud-type earrings. No other visible piercings are allowed. If children have ear piercings, they should be able to remove and replace them independently for PE. Children should not wear rings for school, it is unsafe on play equipment. Any necklaces and/or brooches 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.)



Lunch time menu for this week



 Monday	 Tuesday	 Wednesday	 Thursday	 Friday
Tomato & Basil Wholegrain Pasta with Crusty Bread (v) or Cook's Choice Homemade Pizza & Baked Potato Wedges (v)	Roast British Turkey, Sage & Onion Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy or Plant Power Mince with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy (v)	Mini Brunch British Pork Sausage, Bacon, Hash Brown or Mini Veggie Brunch (v)	Chicken & Chickpea Curry with Wholegrain Rice, Naan Bread or Vegetarian Meatballs with Pasta (v)	Crispy Salmon Stars & Chunky Chips or Quorn Nuggets & Chunky Chips (v)