



Unity Academy Primary Newsletter
25/7/2024

Your weekly roundup of all things years N -6!



A message from Mrs. Shaw

A Message From Mrs. Shaw

Lots of exciting things have happened in school this week!

We have had an Olympics focus in the classrooms with the children taking part in a reward afternoon and outdoor games on Monday. I was so pleased to announce in assembly last Friday that every House had reached the 11,000 house point target. It was a challenging target but one I knew was achievable, with a bit of hard work!

This afternoon, the children watched some of our team take part in the Masked Teacher. I love that about our team ... they aren't afraid to make fools of themselves to give the children something to laugh about and enjoy! Thanks must go to Mr Cooper, Mrs Bass and Mr Brimley, along with the ICT Team for the organisation and tech support and also to the staff who performed. The Sharkettes were crowned champions and the trophy will take pride of place in Miss Helsby's classroom. One child commented "That was the best thing ever" so it makes it all worthwhile!

Hello and Goodbye

The end of the year brings happiness and sadness as we say hello and goodbye to some of our Unity team.

Our Year 6 children finish their primary years tomorrow and begin the next stage of their school life in Secondary in September. It has been a true joy to watch them grow and develop their sense of humour and personalities. I wish you all well at High School!

Miss Purdy and Miss Bailey returned from their Maternity Leaves this week and it is so nice to have them back! We do have a number of staff leaving us though. I would like to thank Mr Wainwright, Miss Bond, Miss Cavanagh, Mr Memory and Miss Macarty for their hard work and wish them well with their future teaching careers. Mrs Cowling and Miss Holmes are leaving us to embark on their teacher training. They have worked here for a number of years and so I know they are well-trained and will make fantastic teachers in the future. Good luck to you both! Mrs Rawcliffe and Miss Ing popped in this week with their little bundles of joy which was lovely. Enjoy your maternity leaves ladies!

Prefects

Our Prefects this year have been amazing. They have really taken their role seriously and supported many events throughout the year with pride, positivity and politeness!

I am very pleased to announce our prefects for 2024-2025. Congratulations to you all. I am sure you will represent our school brilliantly!

- Reece W
- Alina R
- Sophia-Jade J
- Phoebe D
- Poppy M
- Lucas P
- Xander-James W
- Rahand A

And finally...

I must say thank you to all families who have sent in cards and gifts for the staff team. It is really appreciated. We do this job because we love the children and want to give them an exciting and memorable primary education!

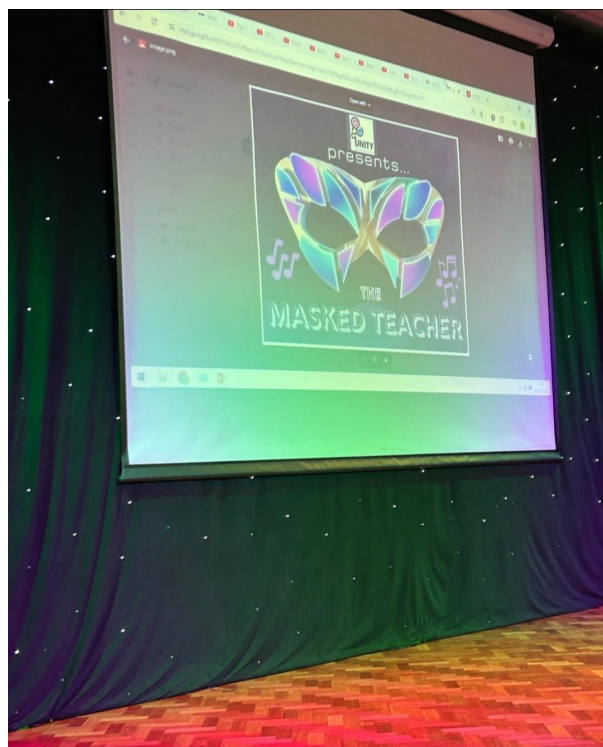
Well, we have reached the end of a fantastic academic year and what a year it has been!

We have had a monitoring visit from Ofsted, a DfE Behaviour Hub visit, FCAT reviews, Leaders from the Pennine Trust, Leading Parent Partnership assessment amongst many other things and all have commented positively on the improvements they have seen at Unity. Things like this don't just happen though and I would like to use this newsletter to

thank our wonderful staff team. They work tirelessly to provide the best education for your children and I simply couldn't do my job without them. I have worked in Blackpool schools for 24 years now and been a Senior Leader for the past 17 years and I can hand on heart say, this is the best team I have ever worked with.

I am so ready for these holidays though and will be heading off straight after school tomorrow for a break with Sam and Evie. The staff and children are certainly ready for a rest too. **A reminder that we finish at 12:15pm today, so please ensure your children are picked up on time as staff have a meeting to attend after school.**

Have a wonderful Summer holiday everyone! See you at 8:40am on Wednesday 4th September!







Contact us!

Contact Us

Our year group emails are no longer being monitored. 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
• RMT	92.53	11
• REB	91.11	7
• 1CBL	84.00	7
• 1BW	82.00	5
• 2KG	94.23	12
• 2AM	90.74	14
• 3HB	93.33	11
• 3LC	92.26	6
• 4TC	95.00	12
• 4CL	97.70	12
• 5TT	86.21	5
• 5JB	93.33	4
• 6VA	90.48	7
• 6NO	94.44	9
• 6MB	94.74	2

Keeping children safe!



Approved apps and games for EARLY YEARS

Approved apps and games for 7-11 YEARS

Approved apps and games for 11-14 YEARS

All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to help set informed boundaries about online safety with their children. Thank you for what you do. 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, tools 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 when 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 topics where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK to play seems obvious but can be tricky. Consider what a game involves, whether it's cooperative or competitive with opponents, what it entails, potential risks. Watching your child play online for extended periods may be a sign of a problem. If you're worried, you can take parental controls on most consoles. Allow your child to play games to your child or send them their feedback. Monitor your child's online activity and discuss the boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in short bursts. In most cases, some games can be played in short bursts. Encourage your child to take breaks from the game, while others (online sports games) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. Agree to take regular breaks and suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as talking to a friend or water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive and parents should be aware of this. Encourage your child to be smart about buying or digital items and subscriptions. Don't let your child buy new items or subscribe to buy new items or subscribe to any services. Encourage your child to be smart about buying or digital items and subscriptions. Don't let your child buy new items or subscribe to any services. Encourage your child to be smart about buying or digital items and subscriptions. Don't let your child buy new items or subscribe to any services.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games or don't know what they mean. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game, make sure you check the age rating. Encourage your child to be smart about buying or digital items and subscriptions. Don't let your child buy new items or subscribe to any services.

MEET OUR EXPERT

David Deacon is a writer specializing in technology, video gaming, culture and entertainment. He has written for various publications and is the author of the book 'The Art of the Game: How to Play and Win in the Digital Age'. He has reviewed more than 100 games and products over the past year.

www.nos.gov.uk

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'rage' but harmful' content, these are being impacted - sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content, which so entrails young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness, recognising when something isn't OK - and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

- 1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM**
Algorithms rank content by user interests, someone who views your content will see the same things. Try to see the 'behind the scenes' of what they see. If a post is liked, it's more likely to be shown. Content that can cause harm, there's a risk it will be recommended to more people. Use restricted modes, or hide posts that don't interest you. Try to see what your child's phone shows them when they open the app.
- 2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS**
Avoiding the default feeds on social media platforms limits the amount of recommended content they show. Users can opt to only see posts from people they follow, use restricted modes, or hide posts that don't interest you. Try to see what your child's phone shows them when they open the app.
- 3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN**
Chatting about what your child's seen online helps you create of the content they're interacting with. Some content that platforms are screening out may still be visible to your child. Being honest about what they're seeing, what posts they've seen that comes up in their feeds, it doesn't mean you're not trusting them.
- 4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT**
If your child stumbles across something they don't like on social media, there's the option to hide that post or to report it. You can also report a post if you think it's inappropriate. On some platforms, you can also choose to block posts that contain specific words, images or to report a post to the reporting authority or what your child sees online.
- 5. SET DAILY LIMITS**
Phones and most apps can tell you how much time you're spending on them. Some apps can even limit your own usage. You could set some family rules - for example to limit screen time on weekdays to one hour. On some devices, such as on-screen time limits and app usage, encourage your child to take a break from their phone when they're ready to stop.
- 6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY**
Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help. Monitor their activity on their phone. If you can, children need to be able to see what they're posting and what responses they get. You can also use parental controls to try not to sound judgemental about your child's.
- 7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS**
Even for adults, it's tempting to check on small push notifications. For the worst reason, push notifications encourage people to keep their phone and phone on their device. Turning them off will help your child to be more in control of their phone. You can also turn off push notifications for specific apps. You can also turn off push notifications for specific apps. You can also turn off push notifications for specific apps.
- 8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER**
Using children internet-enabled devices and computer hardware together in a shared space can help. Parents can see what their child is doing on their device. It's important to use phones together. It's important to use phones together. It's important to use phones together.
- 9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES**
Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of exercise, which can help with mental health. Encourage your child to do other things that they enjoy. Encourage your child to do other things that they enjoy. Encourage your child to do other things that they enjoy.
- 10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE**
Most platforms default children's privacy settings to be public. Encourage your child to set their privacy settings to private. Encourage your child to set their privacy settings to private. Encourage your child to set their privacy settings to private.

Meet Our Expert
Shazia Sarwar, Adm in Executive Headteacher at a specialist primary school, she provides therapy to work with school leaders to focus on the child, mental health and wellbeing. She is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of the book 'Mental Health in Schools: A Practical Guide for Teachers'.

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ONLINE CONTENT 10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.

- 1. MONITOR VIEWING HABITS**
Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.
- 2. CHECK ONLINE CONTENT**
Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.
- 3. CHECK AGE-RATINGS**
Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age-limit.
- 4. CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS**
Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.
- 5. SPEND TIME ON THE APP**
Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.
- 6. LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE**
Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.
- 7. ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING**
Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.
- 8. LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK**
Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.
- 9. KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE**
If a child sees distressing material online, listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.
- 10. SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT**
If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.

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Celebrating Culture and Difference



On Thursday 1st August the celtic Lughnassadh festival takes place marking the start of the harvest.[Click here to learn more.](#)



On Monday 12th August Jews recognise Tisha B'Av the anniversary of the Temple of Solomon.[Click here to learn more.](#)



On Thursday 15th August Christians celebrate the life of Mary the mother of Jesus and her assumption into heaven.[Click here to learn more](#)



Monday 19th August Hindus / Sanatani celebrate Raksha Bandhan - recognising the love and duty between brothers and sisters.[Click here to learn more](#)



On Monday 26th August Hindus / Sanatani celebrate Janmashtami - the birthday of Lord Krishna.[Click here to learn more](#)

Nursery



The children have enjoyed a lovely last week in Nursery, we have loved re-reading our favourite books from the year and have spoken about our favourite things about nursery. The children are very excited about moving up to reception class.

Have a lovely summer ☀️

Reception



Wow what can we say- what an amazing year in Reception!

The children have truly worked their absolute socks off and have grown so much over their year with us. We are so proud and have felt so lucky to be their teachers!

It is so tricky to choose what the highlight of our year has been as we have had so many fantastic learning experiences, including our chicks, our farm trip, our nativity, when a very cheeky tiger visited our classroom, writing letters to members of staff at the hospital and our Teddy Bear's Picnic, to name just a few!

We know that all of you will go on to do so many amazing things and continue to progress and thrive, we can't wait to see the wonderful things you achieve next! You should all be very proud of yourselves, I know that we all are.

We hope you have a lovely, well deserved summer holiday. Thank you parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year, we truly appreciate it.

The Reception Team

Year 1



What a wonderful year it has been in Year 1 !

We have had so much fun and it has been amazing to see how the children have grown this year.

We have had donkeys, beach themed days and lots more.

We hope you all have the best Summer break. Fingers crossed for the weather.

The Year 1 team

Year 2



What an amazing final week for year 2!

In P.E this week, the children have been practicing their dancing skills to their favourite songs and enjoyed taking part in some competitive activities.

This week we have enjoyed watching the masked teacher! The children were so excited to see all of their teachers dressed up! Some of us even got soaked with water!

We hope you have a lovely summer! From The whole Year 2 Team

Year 3



What an AMAZING year it has been!

Full of laughter, hard work, fun, happy memories. Ms Brayne and Miss Cavanaugh are so proud of how mature, kind and sensible you have all been this year. It has been a joy to watch you grow!

Have a fantastic, safe summer, the Year 3 team!



Well Year 4, what can we say, it has been a fantastic year!

We have spent our last week together reminiscing on the experiences we have had and all of our good memories together as well as finishing off some last bits of the curriculum.

It really has been a great year and it has been a pleasure to watch you all grow. We have had some ups and downs but made it through together as the team that we are. I am proud of every single one of you for the progress you have all made personally and academically. We have been a family and it is always sad to see you all move on at the end of the year but you are all so ready for your new adventure. You will all be amazing in Year 5 with Miss Obertelli and Mr Tomes, they are super excited to have you next year! We will however really miss you.

I would also like to take the time to thank you all as parents and carers. Your support has been outstanding this year and we could not do it all without you. We all just want the best for the children and it has really shown this year, resulting in some impressive support and progress for the children and families.

Have a wonderful summer, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you back in Summer for your new adventure in Year 5.

Miss Lee, Mr Cooper, Miss Jenkins and Mr Bentley. :)

Year 5



What a busy week and a fantastic end to Year 5! First of all, thank you so much for all the beautiful and thoughtful gifts and cards. We will miss teaching you all.

On Monday, we celebrated our rewards afternoon for all students, as every house achieved 11,000 house points. The afternoon included football, cricket, dancing with Mrs. Obertelli, and many other fun activities on the 3G pitch.

On Wednesday, we enjoyed The Masked Teacher! It was a fantastic and fun afternoon. Thank you to all the brave staff who took the stage and gave us such a memorable experience.

Have a wonderful summer, and good luck in Year 6! From The Year 5 Team

Year 6



It feels very strange sitting to write the final newsletter of the year... your child's final week of primary school. What a year it has been. Let's recap a few Year 6 highlights:

- Steps to Success evening
- Bibby's Farm residential
- Imperial War Museum North trip
- Beauty & the Beast pantomime
- A visit to UCLAN
- SATs
- Faberge egg making
- Lots of visitors - Dan Worsley, police, fire service, careers advisor to name a few
- Tangerine Day

- Sports Day
- Unstoppable
- Sports 4 Champions - lots of prizes earned!
- Elmer
- The Beat Goes On
- Victorian School Day
- Transition opportunities

During the last week of term we have completed our Maya houses in DT and put them together to make little villages. Our PSHE lesson has focused on transition and reminiscing on our favourite Year 6 memories. We have ended by making mini 'zines' to write messages to each other that we can take home to treasure. We have continued Olympics week with a range of tasks including Philosophy for Children, advertisements and mascot designing. On our final day we also enjoyed our final session of Sports 4 Champions. Those children who handed in their booklets have now received their prizes which can be redeemed at Moor Park, Palatine or Stanley Park sports centres.

It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to our Year 6 cohort and we wish them the best of luck for Year 7 and beyond. Thank you to our wonderful prefects for going above and beyond to support our school - you have all done a fantastic job and made us very proud! I wonder if we will see any of you applying for Head Student roles when you are in Year 11? We certainly hope so! A final thank you to all of our Unity families for your support throughout this year. Enjoy your Summer holiday.

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
- 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 Bispham Clothing (01253 276847) 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.




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 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 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.)

Blackpool FC Community Trust holiday clubs






HOLIDAY ACTIVITY AND FOOD CAMP

If your child attends a Blackpool school and receives benefit related **FREE SCHOOL MEALS** they can access our Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Camps during school holidays for free. We have HAF Camps for primary, secondary and SEND pupils.

Our action packed HAF Camp includes four hours of:

- Football
- Arts & Crafts
- Games Consoles
- Dodgeball
- Cricket
- Plus more activities!

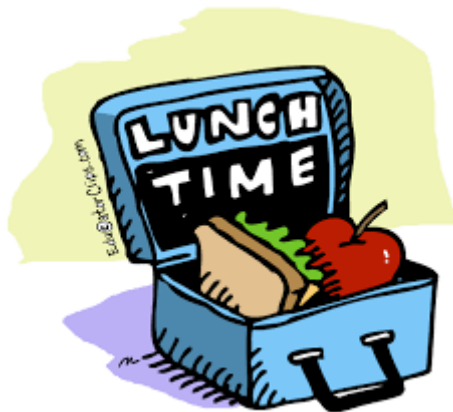
MULTIPLE VENUES AND DATES

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFO OR TO BOOK A PLACE!



www.bfct.co.uk

Lunch time menu for this week



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wholegrain pasta , tomato sauce & wholemeal bread	Roast chicken dinner, broccoli, cauliflower and mash potatoes	Beef burger in a bun, potato wedges and beans	Beef lasagne with crusty wholemeal bread, seasonal veg or salad	Crispy salmon fillet, chips and peas
Stir fry veggie noodles	Cheese lattice, broccoli, cauliflower and mash potatoes	Hot dog, potato wedges and beans	Mexican mixed vegetable tortilla wrap, seasonal veg or salad	Cheese and tomato pizza, chips and peas
Jacket potato and baked beans	Jacket potato and tuna mayo	Jacket potato and cheese	Jacket potato and baked beans	Jacket potato, beans and cheese
Grated cheese sandwich	Roast ham sandwich	Savoury cheese sandwich	Tuna mayo sandwich	Egg mayo sandwich