



Unity Academy Primary Newsletter
26/04/2024

Your weekly roundup of all things years N-6!



A message from Mrs. Shaw

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As Mr Cooke has said in his newsletter, this has not been an easy week for anyone at Unity and I would like to thank those parents who have been supportive of our team/school and have recognised that staff are not being awkward when they have said that they cannot comment on the situation, they simply know as much as you do as families! Mr Cooke has answered some questions for parents in his newsletter this week, so I would recommend having a read of that.

Let's hear about some of the wonderful things that have taken place at Unity this week!

Teaching and Learning

Our Year 5 children were working hard when I visited them on a piece of persuasive writing linked to their class text 'Holes'. They were really trying to convince Mr Tomes that he needed what they had invented. I saw Corey doing his work and he was very focused on explaining why 'doggy goggles' were a good idea! I'm not sure about that one Corey! :-)

Year 6 were writing a formal letter when I nipped in to see them. The handwriting I saw was simply stunning and the vocabulary used was just fabulous! The Year 6 team (and by that I mean staff and children) are working incredibly hard at getting ready for their SATs... the week where they can show off just how amazing they are! If your child wants to feel even

more prepared, don't forget that they can use their revision guides! Year 3 had a creative week as they not only completed a sewing activity but they also created Tutankhamun masks and they were just incredible!

We had a visit this week from the English Hub. They were here to look at our phonics teaching and to support us in making it the best that it can be. I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to Mrs Harvey and Miss Lawson for their hard work in being prepared but also to all of the phonics teaching team for their phonics delivery. I would like to particularly mention Miss Blunden and Miss Holmes who were highlighted for their high quality teaching! All of the children who are in our phonics groups are working hard and showing progress - well done! If you know that your child is in Year 1, is resitting the Phonics Screening Test in Year 2 or is in one of our Y3/4 phonics groups then please give them lots of opportunities to practise at home. We are constantly sending out resources and QR code links to videos which are targeted to your child's needs so please encourage them to use them at home. Any extra practise will really help them!

Our **behaviour curriculum** continued this week as we focused on **Active Listening**. We discussed how strong, respectful relationships can be developed if you can take turns in conversations, can keep focused and not be distracted by others around you when talking to someone whilst maintaining eye contact if you feel comfortable to do so. We also thought about the importance of listening and the problems that can arise if we don't listen properly. Next week, we will be looking at **Positive Challenge**. We will use the book 'My Strong Mind' by Neils Van Hove and will focus on developing mental toughness which is a combination of resilience, curiosity and drive to grow yourself and confidence in your own abilities and interactions with people.

Diary Dates

International Dance Day - 29th April. Y1-5 will take part in a primary dance session. Children in Years R/N/Y6 will take part at a later date.

Bank Holiday - 6th May. Please note that school is closed on this day.

Y3 Hindu Temple Visit - 8th May

Y1 Beaver Afternoon - 9th May

And finally...

The weather really does look like it is changing for the better. If it sticks, it may be a weekend of fence painting for me ;-)(Have a great weekend everyone!

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	97.12	11
• REB	93.53	8

- 1CBL 95.45 6
- 1BW 95.51 11
- 2KG 95.67 8
- 2AM 89.90 10
- 3HB 90.28 12
- 3LC 94.40 13
- 4TC 89.29 8
- 4CL 89.58 14
- 5TT 97.98 9
- 5JB 93.30 3
- 6VA 85.19 12
- 6NO 95.00 18
- 6MB 94.67 1

Keeping children safe!



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

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

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

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – or which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which means potential risks, including your child being invited to a private chat room or invited into a particular game, while the possibility of contact with strangers follows you to friends who can chat to your child. Identify your child's interests, identify their choice of the highlights around at any one time when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, choosing to shorter breaks rather than protracted sessions. Agree to read that some games (such as those played on mobile phones) require time (independent from the child) to play. Consider some games (for example, Call of Duty) which are designed to be played in short bursts, and you can of regular game breaks to do these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be addictive, and that some players who don't realise how much they're spending up to many young gamers time to buy more items or upgrades for their characters. If your child is in a situation where they're spending more each week or month, this sort of boundary will help them to be able to manage their expenditure, and will also help them to appreciate the price of their purchases.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they're even there. If you're buying a game for your child, take the time to read about playing on particular games with their age. If you're buying a game, emphasize that you've made an informed decision, and that you've made an informed decision. This sort of boundary will help them to be able to manage their expenditure, and will also help them to appreciate the price of their purchases.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the choices are often that it's their other gaming friends that might chat, too. Which means, do they instantly dash to their console or computer, you could put boundaries in place before they connect to their friends. If you're not at home, but they may try to attend to their friends, you could try coming up with a plan of action. If you're at home, they may be able to enter into this plan.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an opportunity for bonding. Parents may be less enthusiastic about it, but it can be fun for everyone. It can be an opportunity for bonding. Parents may be less enthusiastic about it, but it can be fun for everyone. It can be an opportunity for bonding. Parents may be less enthusiastic about it, but it can be fun for everyone.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show to other players, for example. Consider how they feel if they lose. Do they think these emotions are healthy? Do game developers promote anger, and others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of a game. Try to stress your child's feelings. Try to stress your child's feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem with gaming online is other players who are deliberately provocative. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes them feel uncomfortable. If you're buying a game, emphasize that you've made an informed decision, and that you've made an informed decision.

Meet Our Expert

Learn how to set boundaries around gaming with our expert advice. Visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for more information.

Celebrating Culture and Difference





Wednesday the 1st May marks the Traditional Gaelic Beltane Celebration. It celebrates Spring at it's peak and the the coming of Summer.. Beltane sometimes goes by the name of May Day. [Click here to learn more](#)

Elmer's Big Parade



The elephants have arrived in Blackpool! Have you seen our Elmer 'Comm-Unity' yet? We would love to see your photographs, please send them to the World Book day email address **worldbookday@unity.fcat.org.uk** so we can share them in school, on the screens during lunchtimes.

You can find more information about the trail around Blackpool on [here](#) . The app shows you a map where you can 'collect' the sculptures you have seen and can even collect rewards. You can also vote for your favourite large Elmer and vote for our school Elmer too. Pleas get voting for us!

As part of the Elmer trail we are raising money for Brian House, our local children's hospice this term and would really appreciate your help with reaching our goal.

Our first activity will be to collect spare change in our class elephant tins to see if we can measure the perimeter of our newly refurbished Muga in coins. The tins are open now and we will have our Perimeter coin challenge on a dry day during next week, 29th April.

Mrs Bateman has arranged a colouring competition which will be shared soon. Please choose the picture you wish to colour and send your entry in with 50p attached to the sheet to be entered into the competition. Prizes will be awarded to the winners. The closing date is Friday 10th May.

On Friday 17th May, we will host a 'Wear your trainers to school day' for a donation of 50p.

We will also have a non-uniform day on Friday 24th May, the last day of term, for a donation of £1.

Thank you for your continued support and we hope you all enjoy finding the elephants.

Nursery



This week in nursery we have continued to learn about spring, our story is Hello Spring. We have gone on a spring walk and have looked for signs of spring around school, we have seen new flowers that have grown, birds in the trees, new green leaves and seedlings. The children have also created their own lambs using different materials, we have been working on describing a familiar route and have enjoyed creating our own birds nests in the tuff tray.





Reception

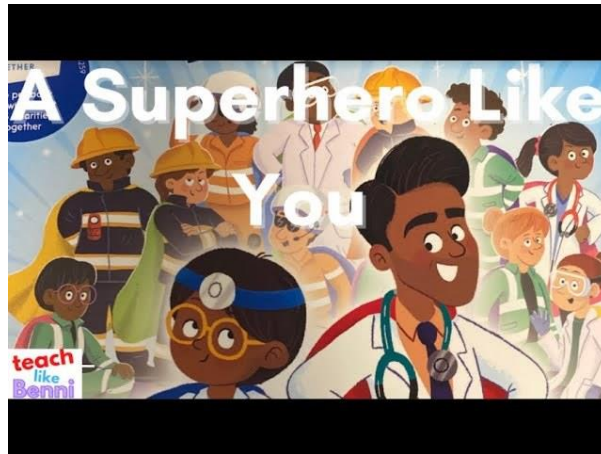


On Monday we celebrated Earth Day. This was a fantastic opportunity for our children to discuss the importance of protecting our World and the things that live on it. We began by reading the story 'Love Our Earth'. This supported our knowledge and understanding of the World through detailing the many wonderful things which live on Earth, before discussing what we can do to help protect them. The children were fantastic at thinking about the little things they can do to help including, recycling, walking or riding their bikes to school and turning off lights when leaving a room.

During Earth Day we worked together to make a collaborative piece of artwork. We each used our handprints to make the land and water of the Earth. Whilst making our artwork we discussed the things we can do to protect the Earth. We continued our creativity by making Earth Day headbands which included lots of images of things we can do to protect the Earth, which our children wore proudly!

We advanced our fine motor skills through creating pointillism pictures of the Earth using cotton buds and were challenged to create a representation of the Earth in our playdough area.

In the afternoon we had lots of fun taking part in litter picking! We used our school litter pickers and worked very hard to collect rubbish from our playgrounds. The children were very proud to make our school clean and tidy and to help the environment and they did an absolutely fantastic job!



This week we have also begun our half term topic of People Who Help Us. We read the story 'A Superhero Like You' by Dr Ranj. Throughout the week we thought about the range of people who help us within the community including, vets, crossing patrols, air ambulance, recycling truck drivers and firefighters along with many more. We have also discussed the importance of these people and that they are real life superheroes within our community.

We continued our learning within our provision. In our Creative Area the children worked very hard to create realistic interpretations of people who help us. The children also created their own headbands so that they could role play as various job roles, including, firefighters, the police and crossing patrols.

In our Construction Area the children were tasked with creating a range of important buildings, including, a vet hospital, post office, fire station and hospital. The children were fantastic at this challenge; explaining their ideas fluently, with one structure containing a helicopter pad!

We look forward to the rest of this half term when we look at more **people who help us** in depth. Have a great weekend, The Reception Team

Year 1



An excellent week in Year 1 this week !

In English we have been using the fairytale The Three Billy Goats gruff to think about our own story writing. We have been writing our own beginning of a story by introducing the characters and the setting, using adjectives. The children have really enjoyed using our senses to help us with this.

In Design Technology, we have continued to use the story The Three Billy Goats gruff to begin thinking about making a bridge to hold our 3 goats.

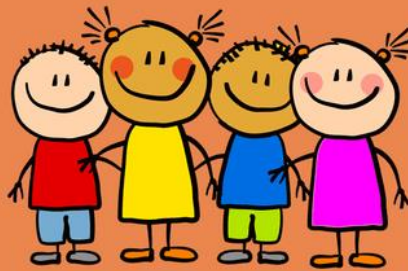
Is Science in 1CBL, we have been completing our bubbles Crest activity, investigating what bubbles look like and if their shape can be altered.

We are getting closer now to our Year 1 phonics screening. Please can the children practice the real and nonsense words that they have been given this week as well as reading their phonics book at least 3 times a week.

Have a lovely weekend, The Year 1 team



Year 2



Another busy week in Year 2!

This week children have been reading *Dinosaurs Love Underpants* in English. Children have created their own colourful story maps and performed the story to their class. We have worked as a class to sequence the images and events from the story so that we know them off by heart! Towards the end of this week, we have started to retell the story in writing using some of our key vocabulary.

In Maths this week, children have been recapping on addition and subtraction. We have also been finishing our unit on 'mass, capacity and temperature'. Children have completed their end of unit assessments for this.

In Art this week, the children were very excited to work with clay. We have talked about what clay is and how it can be used to make lots of different things. We have learned the 'score and slip' technique and practiced making our own pot of 'slip'. Children have then used this technique to join to pieces of clay together to make a snail.

In our Dinosaurs topic in History this week, we have talked about what the world looked like 250 million years ago. Children have learned about 'Pangea' and we have spoken about some of the animals and plants that inhabited the Earth during that time. Children have then created their own images of what the world would have looked like.

Spellings next week are: **Mrs** **everybody** **improve**

Please remember to read with your children 3 times per week. Have a lovely weekend! Miss Macarty and Miss Gleadell

Year 3



Another busy, but excellent, week in Year 3!

This week saw us learning all about capacity and volume in Maths, had us reading a brand new story - Egyptian Cinderella- in English and creating posters in Science!

English has been focused on conjunctions this week, we have been comparing and contrasting the traditional Cinderella story to our new Egyptian Cinderella book. We found that both stories had lots of similar features such someone mistreated, a special event and being reunited with something our main character lost!

Maths has been challenging once again, focusing on capacity and volume. We are getting really good at working out intervals to read measurements accurately.

In History, we looked at the hierarchy pyramid we compared the roles of the pharaoh, the scribes, the nobles and the slaves. We looked at how pharaohs were treated as gods versus slaves being treated very poorly.

In Geography, we looked at the importance of the physical feature , the River Nile. We discussed how it floods and allows for crops to grow and people to have access to water in, an otherwise, desert.

In Science, we looked at sun safety and the affects of UV rays on people and objects. We have set up an experiment in the classroom to see what happens if we leave shapes on coloured paper in the sunshine for one week. We also looked at some clips of the recent eclipse that happened in North America - it was amazing!

Please ensure P.E. kits are kept in school for all of the half term and **please continue to read 3 times a week.** Have a great weekend, The Y3 team

Year 4



What a brilliant week Year 4 have had!

We have been writing setting and character descriptions all around our Akimbo's Adventures book. We have created a bank of powerful and adventurous vocabulary to help us with our writing this term. We have been loving learning about everything Africa, as we have been looking at human and physical features of South Africa in Geography.

In History we have been exploring what words we still use today that originated from the Anglo-Saxons. We were surprised to see words like 'sand', 'barrow', 'bury' and 'port'. It was really interesting to listen to the different pronunciation of the different words, we even tried to do the accent!

We started our DT topic this week, we were exploring different bags and wallets, looking at their purpose, how they were made, what material they are made from and how they are joined together. We evaluated which of the bags were our favourites and why. We then had a think about what ideas we might take from these to support our own design.

We have continued learning about fractions in Maths, we are super impressed with the children's engagement in Maths lessons!

Please continue to read and practice on TT Rocks at home and have a lovely weekend, The Year 4 Team :)

Year 5



Another busy week in Year 5!

Forest School - This week in Forest School the children have been developing the skills required to make fire by using fire steels and shells. They also used OS maps to identify symbols found on an OS map and started to describe the lifecycle of a plant.

Writing - This week the children have completed their persuasive leaflets to buy a new invention such as dog goggles, a jet pack and even Bluetooth gloves. The children have then focused on informal letter writing based on the class read "Holes" and then practiced their peer assessment skills.

DT - This week the children have been practicing their stitching skills ready to make their Ancient Greek themed puppets. The children learned how to do a running stitch, backstitch and a blanket stitch. The children showed true resilience as it was a tricky task but they all tried their best.

PE - This week in PE, the children are practicing their athletics skills and orienteering. The children are starting to show there are some budding athletics stars of the future in Year 5.

Upcoming dates

Finger knitting: Wednesday 15th May - please complete and return the slip.

Williamson Park: Tuesday 2nd July. Please complete and return the reply slip to secure your child's place on the trip if you haven't done so already. Thank you for those that have already been returned. Don't forget to pay through Parent Pay.

Have a lovely weekend, The Year 5 Team



**Monday 22nd April
Forest School**



**Monday 22nd April
Forest School**



**Monday 22nd April
Forest School**



**Monday 22nd April
Forest School**



**Monday 22nd April
Forest School**



Year 6



Reading - In guided reading this week we have completed *The Midnight Fox* by Betsy Byars. The children have really enjoyed reading this classic text and have found the main character, Tom, to be very endearing as well as showing empathy towards the black fox, who gets hunted by his uncle. *Unstoppable with Blackpool Football Club* has also continued this week. We are now fully engrossed in the text by Dan Freedman and enjoying the accompanying activities. Please remember to read your reading book at home at least three times a week.

Writing - We have been busy writers this week, completing a range of tasks linked to our book, *The Island* by Armin Greder. Early in the week we completed some freewriting, which encourages children to write without worry. It was lovely for the children to write from the heart about what they would take with them if they were deserted on an island. We discussed songs, books, memories and luxury items. We have written some formal letters in the role of lawyers. We learned all about this career and what lawyers do as their job. Ask us what other names can be used for lawyers! If this wasn't enough, we ended the week writing a narrative extract, focusing on using dialogue to advance the action within our writing.

RE - We have returned to learning about Islam and this week explored the Night of Power and why it is important. In learning more about the Qur'an, we have explored how written guidance can impact our behaviour. We talked about special books in our own lives and whether they have messages inside about how we should behave. This led to some very fruitful discussion.

Kooth Digital Health - Kooth Digital Health offers free and anonymous, therapeutic mental health and wellbeing support to young people. Funded and endorsed by public health and the NHS, their services remain available 365 days a year, offering 'on the day' wellbeing

support from the comfort of your own home, via any web-enabled device via the following website- www.kooth.com.

Kooth offers free access to online text-based practitioner chats, self-help tools and activities, journal spaces and advice from their non-judgmental, safe and moderated peer to peer communities. With no threshold, waiting list or referral process, young people can receive support for ANY issues they may be experiencing. These may include body image, self-esteem, loneliness, bereavement, academic pressures, stress, anxiety, friendships, sexuality, life changes etc. The registration process is quick, anonymous and safe, simply by registering at www.kooth.com using non-identifiable information.

Kooth delivers 1000's of online wellbeing sessions each year in Local Authorities across the UK. As 50% of referrals to CAMHS are unfortunately deemed inappropriate to their criteria, Kooth gives schools, professionals and families an alternative way of ensuring children and young people can access free support when they need it, in a way that they find comfortable to access, via any web-enabled device. If you have any questions regarding the service, please contact Kooth directly; simply email parents@kooth.com and also a selection of Parent/Carer resources can be accessed using this link: [Parents/Carers resources](#).

Upcoming dates

SATs week: Monday 13th - Thursday 16th May.

UCLAN trip: Tuesday 21st May. Please complete and return both slips back in to secure your child's place on the trip if you haven't done so already. Thank you for those that have already been returned.

Star of the Week



RMT - Alexandru - For being such a kind, positive and polite member of RMT.

REB - Dexter - For being a kind friend and always making good choices.

1CBL - Cal - For his enthusiasm in lessons this week and working well as a team.

1BW - Mollie - For her love of reading in and out of school, which is positively impacting her phonics knowledge! Fantastic reader, well done!

2KG - Phoenix - For having such an amazing attitude towards his learning this week. Miss Gleadell and Miss Holmes are so proud of you! Keep it up!

2AM - Kodi - For using communication cards whilst playing a game with his friend and trying his best in his work this week. Well done!

3HB - Sophia - For her excellent piece of letter writing and general ambitious attitude towards English lessons.

3LC - Kelsea - For her excellent and positive attitude towards learning, settling well into Unity and being an always child.

4TC - Brogan - For a more positive attitude to learning and great answers in Maths this week.

4CL - Daisy - For trying really hard in all aspects of her work and for being a kind friend.

5TT - Casey - An excellent piece of persuasive writing.

5JB - Tyler-James - Fantastic progress with his reading and improving his reading age by 1 year 6 months since February.

6NO - Alina - Fantastic reading progress during Guided reading.

6VA - Farah - For her progress in writing.

6MB - Luke - For super focus, effort and attitude.

School 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

Black sweatshirt/cardigan sweatshirt with logo

White collared shirt

Black trousers/ Unity Tartan Skirt

Tie in house colour

Black socks/plain tights

Black shoes

Primary PE Kit

Red polo shirt with logo

Black shorts

Black socks

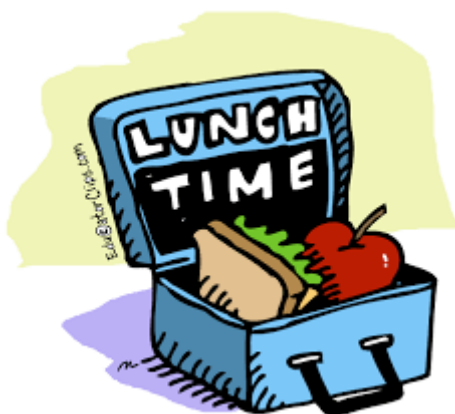
Black Pumps

Optional Items - Unity Tracksuit or plain black tracksuit (A Unity tracksuit will be provided for the Reception children)

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

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