



Unity Academy Primary Newsletter  
28/2/2025

Your weekly roundup of all things years N -6!



A message from Mrs. Shaw

## A Message From Mrs. Shaw

Another busy week in the world of Unity! Let's see what has been going on!

### **Teaching and Learning**

On Monday, Year 5 went to watch the National Youth Orchestra play and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Huge thanks to Miss Stones and Mr Weaver for organising the event. It was so lovely to join the Year 3 and 4 children on the corridor to watch the National Youth Orchestra play exclusively for us in school on Tuesday. The children loved seeing these talented young people play a variety of Disney songs for them. Lucas in Y6 even got the opportunity to play with I love that we provide our children with such a wide range of opportunities!

Reception had a lot of fun in the gym this week doing a PSHE/ PE.E lesson with me. We talk about our heart and what it does. We discussed how to keep it and our bodies healthy. We then had fun doing different exercises and looking at the effect it had on our breathing, our heart rate and how hot and sweaty we felt. The children were excellent at following rules and routines to keep them safe in the gym.

On Monday, Mr Brimley held his Celebration Assembly where the children learned all about Ramadan. Ramadan marks a time for positive change. People celebrate the month by

spending quality time with family, appreciating the smaller things in life and spreading positivity. Following this, every class has a Kindness Calendar for the month with a daily act of Kindness. Monday's act for example is to talk or play with someone new.

In our RRS curriculum this week, we went back to our School Expectations. The children could very confidently discuss what Ready, Respectful and Safe is and what behaviours demonstrate these values. Things like being in school on time, every day, talking, listening and behaving respectfully towards others, wearing the full and correct school uniform and being kind towards other people are crucial. I talked with the children about how important behaviours like these are, especially when they go out into the world of work! I was particularly happy when I went into Reception and one of the children said "Mrs Shaw, do you like my new shoes? I got them because you said in assembly that black shoes are our correct school uniform!" Bless him, he looked so smart and was very proud of them. Next week we are moving onto 'Celebrating Success'.

## **Year 6**

I am very pleased to say that we have had 45 out of 59 children sign up and attend our first Precision Tutoring/ LBQ sessions this week. This is simply brilliant and will only be of benefit to your child in ensuring that they are as prepared as possible when the SATs tests come around in May. We have now closed the form so that we don't miss any responses but if your child hasn't yet signed up and you wish for them to attend, please speak to your child's class teacher and they will see what availability we have. The next set of mock SATs will take place W/c 10th March. We are currently looking at the arrangements as we would like to mirror how the real tests will be so that the children know what to expect. As we shared at the information evening, children who achieve the expected standard in their Y6 SATs test are more likely to go on to achieve a grade 4/5 at GCSE and, as we know, good GCSE results give your child options for later life!

## **Diary Dates**

- 4th March - NHS Reception/Y6 Height and Weight Checks
- 6th March - Primary Choir to Lowther Pavillion
- 6th March - World Book Day & Book at Bedtime
- W/c 10th March - Year 6 mock SATs Week
- 18th March - Modern Foreign Languages Event at Armfield Academy
- 19th - 26th March - Book Fair in School
- 20th March - Y5 Virtual STEM Day
- 21st March - Lancashire Music Service Music Bus - Year 1
- 27th March - Y3 Scouts Taster Session

- W/c 31st March - Read, Write Inc Assessment Week
- Friday 4th April - School closes for Easter holiday at **the normal time of 3:10pm**.  
Sorry if there has been any confusion around this time, but it is a normal finish time on this day.

**And finally ...** It has been so nice to arrive and leave school and it still be daylight, let's hope the sunny weather returns soon! Have a great weekend everyone!

## Community Corner



# Children & Young People's Support

## Parent & Carers Virtual Workshops

### Are you a parent or carer in Blackpool?

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

**Thursday 6th March** Introduction to Mental Health & Resilience

**Thursday 3rd April** Talking to Your Child About Mental Health

**Tuesday 8th May** Exploring & Understanding Emotions



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



More details here

For more information contact [sharonsutcliffe@lancashiremind.org.uk](mailto:sharonsutcliffe@lancashiremind.org.uk)



## 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!

# 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>95.09</i>	<i>2</i>
• <i>1CL</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>4</i>
• <i>1MT</i>	<i>96.55</i>	<i>8</i>

• <b>2BH</b>	<b>93.75</b>	<b>7</b>
• <b>2AP</b>	<b>90.00</b>	<b>2</b>
• <b>3KG</b>	<b>94.50</b>	<b>15</b>
• <b>3HB</b>	<b>88.46</b>	<b>6</b>
• <b>4JB</b>	<b>90.74</b>	<b>2</b>
• <b>4CBL</b>	<b>97.32</b>	<b>12</b>
• <b>5MB</b>	<b>97.50</b>	<b>7</b>
• <b>5NO</b>	<b>98.75</b>	<b>6</b>
• <b>6TT</b>	<b>93.10</b>	<b>6</b>
• <b>6VA</b>	<b>95.42</b>	<b>6</b>

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, tips and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALS

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
**PEGI 12**  
Violence: Mild blood and gore. The age of 12 should play.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**IN-GAME CHAT**  
Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but it is a competitive environment, so some conversations can become disrespectful. Text chat is usually government-moderated, but on PC, and will be shown on the side of the screen. Moderation can be disabled by users. It's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could appear in-game.

**IN-GAME PURCHASES**  
While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic books. Some skins also include a 3D battle pass (much like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of rewards. But these can't be purchased once the free trial has expired, leaving a host of missing out.

**CONTACT WITH STRANGERS**  
With such a large player base, it's impossible to predict when your child will be teaming up with a gaming partner. They're likely to be in real-time through voice and text chat, but parents, some of these people will be strangers, and parents are urged to be vigilant. It's important to be aware of potential inappropriate or abusive behaviour, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.

**VIOLENT CONTENT**  
There is no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish, but the playable characters are available very heavily in the competitive environment and can be killed, and figures like Iron Man and the Hulk, who are more realistic-looking. Given the game's nature as a shooter, this may make some parents and carers uncomfortable as some players will be firing laser weapons at each other.

**INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
The game includes some inappropriate and mature themes in the dialogue, which could be more appropriate for children. Some of these include profanity, sexual references, and references to drug use. The content of the in-game chat could also be age-inappropriate, leading to bullying or harassment.

**FAMILIAR CHARACTERS**  
The inclusion of iconic characters might make Marvel Rivals appear more approachable than other games in the genre, which could make it more likely to be played by children. However, it's important to be aware of the risks of playing the game without properly understanding the game.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

**FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS**  
The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the moral compass of the roster of characters (people carrying on hats, the Guardians of Death, for example), while the winning team's violence, however cartoonish, isn't overwhelming.

**FAMILIARISE YOURSELF**  
The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its cartoony presentation, means that parents who are well-versed in what the game is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about it and playing in a moderated environment to see how you feel about the game's AI in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to complete online.

**MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT**  
Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to speech, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants to play online, however, it's important that they can use their console's party chat feature or host or call on a one-party service like Discord.

**DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS**  
Parents should ensure that no payment options – such as debit cards – are linked to the game, to prevent accidental purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by enticing in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. Before any purchase, it's important to ensure that you have a clear understanding of the game's financial practices, teaching young people to be careful with their money.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at the Daily Star and has been working in the gaming space for 15 years. A regular visitor to the Age Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing freely about tech and games, he has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and priority press.

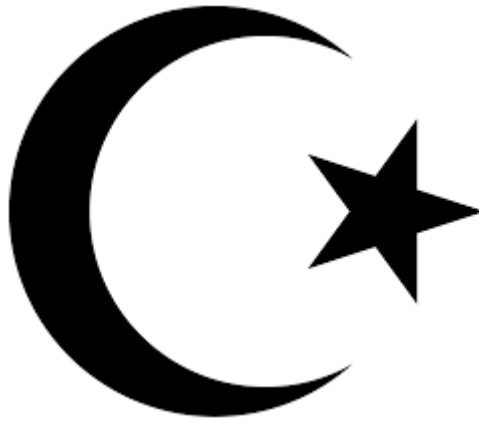
**WakeUpWednesday**  
The National College

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Celebrating Culture and Difference





Friday 28th February is the start of Ramadan - the Islamic holy month of fasting. [Click here to learn more](#)



Saturday 1st March is St Davids Day - celebrating the patron Saint of Wales. [Click here to learn more](#)

Tuesday 4th March is Shrove Tuesday - often referred to as Pancake Day, [Click here to learn more](#)

Wednesday 5th is ash Wednesday - the first day of Lent. [Click here to learn more](#)

## Nursery



This week in Nursery we have been reading Superworm, the children have enjoyed talking about what superhero powers they have. We have created our own superhero and used our phonetic knowledge to write some simple words to describe them. We have also made our own superhero masks that we have worn when saving our friends from danger.

This week we have started to look at repeated patterns, the children have done really well with this and many of them were able to continue the pattern.

## Reception



In Reception this week we have been reading Emma Jane's

## Year 1



What a lovely week in Year 1!

Year 1 had a shock this week when we found that some of our classroom resources had been stolen! We made predictions about who it could have been, including "an evil Fred", "the Gingerbread Man" and "the Highway Rat". After lots of detective work we realised that it was in fact Burglar Bill! We had been working hard to make character descriptions which we hope will help to catch him and our things will be returned!

Year 1 also received a lovely visit from NYO on Tuesday. The children were in absolute awe of the talented artists and listened beautifully. Miss Stones asked for our feedback on the wonderful music that we heard and the children's responses were so considerate and thoughtful. We wanted to share some as they were simply so lovely. They included, "that wasn't just great, it wasn't just awesome, it was superior to all other music", "that made my heart so big", "it was so calming and relaxing", "they are so talented and have worked so hard to play like that" and "that's the best music I've heard in the whole World!"

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Year 2



What a fantastic first week back we have had in Year 2!

In English the children have started reading a new story called 'The Queen's Knickers' the children first started off by predicting what might happen in the story and sharing their thoughts and ideas with their classmates. They have thoroughly enjoyed reading this story and even got to design their own pair of pants for a special occasion and write about their design.

In Maths, the children have continued with multiplication and this week the children have been looking at arrays.

Year 2 have started their first story telling lesson this week. They have been using the new mighty writer board to create their own story all about a dragon and castle. It was really lovely to see how enthusiastic the children were when it came to writing their stories.

Year 2 have also had some visitors from Active Blackpool in school to do their first session on 'Eat more and Move More' The children will be taking part with this session once a week until April.

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

Year 3



We have had a fantastic week back in Year 3 this week!

It has been lovely to hear all of the wonderful things you have done over half term.

In Maths this week we have started our new topic of length and perimeter. We have learnt all about different units of measurement such as meters, centimeters and millimeters.

In English we read a book called 'Emma Jane's Aeroplane' where she travels all around the world. We really enjoyed this book because it had lots of rhyming words in. We came up with our own rhyming words ready for when we write our own version of this story.

This week your child should of come home with a letter about our World Book Day Assembly which has unfortunately had to change dates due to unforeseen circumstances. **This will now be on Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 2.30pm. Please fill in the reply slip and send it back so we can get an idea for numbers.**

**Please remember to read 3 times per week and sign it in your reading record.**

Year 3 Team



This week in English, we received an exciting email from Mr. Cooke, who spotted some animals running through the playground! Shortly after, we received a poster from Blackpool Zoo informing us that some of their animals had escaped. The children then explored the features of a letter and wrote back to the zoo, describing what they had seen, suggesting ways to catch the animals, and explaining why it was important to do so.

In RE, we have started our Christianity topic with a focus on forgiveness. The children engaged in role-play activities based on five different scenarios, helping them to understand the importance of saying sorry and forgiving others.

We also had a special visit from the National Youth Orchestra this week! They played a selection of songs from some of our favorite Disney films in our corridor, creating a magical atmosphere for everyone to enjoy.



**Reminders:**

- 4CBI – Swimming on Wednesday and normal PE on Monday.
- 4JB – Please ensure PE kits are in school on Monday and Wednesday.
- We have noticed an increase in children bringing items from home. Please check that your child is not bringing anything valuable, as we wouldn't want them to be upset if something gets lost or broken.
  - We are starting to see some inappropriate footwear being worn by students in Year 4. We realise that sometimes accidents happen, and thank parents/carers who send notes to us to explain these one offs, but please can we ask that children are meeting the expectation to wear footwear that is completely black.
  - Please don't forget the expectation to read at home at least three times per week.

Have a great weekend! The Year 4 Team



We had a lovely start to the week with our visit to Blackpool Tower to see the National Youth orchestra. The orchestra were amazing and it was wonderful to see the reaction of our children watching and listening to the music. Their enthusiasm continued when we had surprise visits to our classrooms during Tuesday from the brass and wind sections. This was a wonderful opportunity as we were the only school in Blackpool to receive the classroom visits.

In science, we have started our Crest Award investigation topic and tested a number of materials to see which one would work best to mend a bucket with holes in, it was interesting how much water can leak from just a little gap!

In maths, we are currently focusing on multiplying fractions and finding fractions of an amount. Support with recall of times tables at home will really benefit the children with this and many maths topics.

Hopefully, you will have heard about our new and exciting class reading book 'Shackleton's journey' we are reading and exploring in English. The children have been researching and considering which job role they would have applied for on the ship, which one would you have chosen? Captain, surgeon or maybe a geologist or biologist.

**Bikeability update** - we will let you know as soon as the new dates have been confirmed.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend, Year 5 team

## Year 6



It is wonderful to read Mrs Shaw's message that 45/59 students have started their precision tutoring sessions this week. Please do come and speak with us if your child is not yet enrolled and you wish them to take part. We have a handful of children who have already earned 10 credits and are well on their way to being able to choose where they would like to go on their school trip at the end of the year! In order to keep earning those weekly credits, your homework is to complete your LBQ tasks at home (by Friday). A sheet with the QR code on was handed out at the meeting held with parents, and has also been sent out this week to families who weren't able to attend.

On Tuesday we came in from break to the majestic sound of the National Youth Orchestra. It was wonderful to watch the children being inspired by other young people.

In DT we have started to learn about CAMs mechanisms and will be designing and making our very own moving toys this half term. It is a very exciting unit of work which sees children's creativity come alive - we can't wait to see what is made in the coming weeks!

*A plea...* If you have a copy of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves at home, we would really appreciate it if we could borrow it for the day on World Book Day next Thursday. Please send it before the day if possible, so that we know how many books we will have on the day (we are going to be comparing and contrasting them!) and ensure it is named to that it can be returned. Thank you for any copies you may be able to lend.

We are starting to see more and more inappropriate footwear being worn by students in Year 6. We realise that sometimes accidents happen, and thank parents/carers who send notes to us to explain these one offs, but please can we ask that children are meeting the expectation to wear footwear that is completely black. Thank you.

Please don't forget the expectation to read at home at least three times per week in addition to the LBQ online homework expected on the run up until SATs; only 8 school weeks to go, now!

Dates for the diary:

10/03/25 - mock SATs

20/03/25 - last after school tag rugby club session

27/03/25 - Victorian school day (letter to follow. Children can dress up for the day!)

03/04/25 - UCLAN trip (again, letter to follow)

Enjoy a restful weekend.

### *Star of the Week*



- ***RHH - Ksawery - For coming back with a fantastic attitude to learning!***
- ***1CL - Adam - For being an always person and showing such determination in his work.***
- ***1MT - Willow - I am so impressed with your resilient, calm and fantastic attitude since coming back to school. We are very proud of you!***
- ***2BH - Folajimi - For going above and beyond with home learning.***
- ***2AP - Arabella - For always being a kind friend.***
- ***3KG - Kamraan - For trying so hard with his reading especially during comprehension! Myself and Ms Brayne are super proud!***
- ***3HB - Blaire - For always showing our school values of ready, respectful and safe***
- ***4JB - Jessica - For being an always person.***
- ***4CBL - Kaelan - For his resilience at swimming***
- ***5MB - Oscar - For showing kindness and thoughtfulness to others in class and the playground***
- ***5NO - Mason - For showing fantastic confidence and progress in our guided reading sessions - and just reading in general!***
- ***6TT - Kaiden - For his attitude since we returned after half term and the way he has encouraged his friends to do the right thing.***
- ***6VA - Jake - For demonstrating everything expected of a focused Y6 student!***

## 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**



The branded uniform will be stocked at Blipham Clothing (01283 276647) and Ragamuffins (01283 390717). If you need any assistance with purchasing uniform please contact Aijoon 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

	or		or		or		or	
<b>Plain white shirt</b> No logo or branding		<b>Unity logo cardigan</b> Plain black cardigan with Unity logo on the left chest		<b>Tallored Skirt</b> Plain black		<b>Trousers</b> Plain black, no logo or branding		<b>Plain black tights</b> No logo, branding or pattern. Available at many retailers

### Optional Uniform

<b>Shorts</b> Plain black	<b>Summer dress</b>	<b>Plain white socks</b> (To be worn with summer dress)	<b>Black Blazer</b> with the Unity logo

### PE Uniform

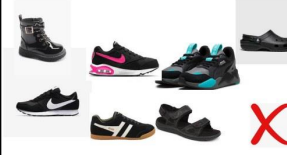
(No children in any year group are to come to school wearing P.E. kit)

<b>Red polo shirt</b>	<b>Black shorts</b>	<b>Black Pumps or Trainers</b>

### 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

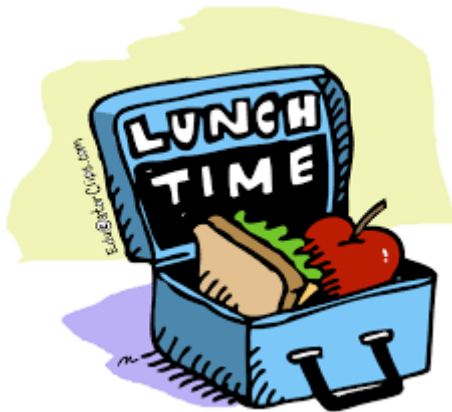


### Jewellery and Hair

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 colourants (e.g. green, blue etc.)



## Lunch time menu for this week



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cook's Choice Homemade Pizza (v) or Cheese & Egg Tart & Oven Baked Diced Potatoes (v)	British Roast Chicken, Sage & Onion Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy or Spicy Tomato & Cheese Pasta Bake with Crusty Bread (v)	British Pork Sausage Mashed Potatoes & Gravy or Vegetarian Sausage Roll (v), Mashed Potatoes & Gravy	British Beef Bolognese & Pasta Spirals or Cheese & Onion Swirls with Herby Boiled Potatoes (v)	MSC Harry Ramsden's Crispy Coated Fillet of Fish & Chunky Chips or Tasty Vegetable Burger & Chunky Chips (v)