



Unity Academy Primary Newsletter
3/7/2026

Your weekly roundup of all things years N -6!



A message from Mrs. Shaw

A Message From Mrs. Shaw

Wow, what an incredibly busy and positive week we have had here at school! As we head towards the end of the academic year, our focus has been all about celebrating growth and looking forward to the exciting adventures ahead.

Teaching and Learning

This week, all of our primary children took a giant leap forward as they visited their new classrooms and spent the day with their new teachers! There was a wonderful buzz of excitement across the school.

To make sure the transition is as smooth and worry-free as possible, teachers spent time outlining new routines and expectations, including expectations for behaviour and the importance of our 'Ready, Respectful and Safe' school values. Most importantly, the children went on mini-tours to spot all the essentials making sure they know exactly where their new coat pegs, toilets and the playgrounds are.

Behind the scenes, our staff have also been working incredibly hard. Teachers have been taking part in detailed transition and pupil progress meetings, ensuring that every child's

achievements, strengths and next steps are carefully handed over to their new class teacher. Your children are in fantastic hands for September!

We had some very special visitors this week as the Music Bus rolled into school! It was parked right outside my office window and it absolutely made my week.

The Year 1 children had an amazing time exploring and playing a whole range of instruments. The coolest part? All the instruments were attached to headphones! This meant the children could hear their own musical masterpieces, but no one else could. The funniest side effect of this was hearing the children chatting and shouting *very* loudly over the sound of their own music to tell us what they were doing!

The verdict was unanimous - it was a huge hit. In fact, one child enthusiastically declared that it was "the best thing ever!"

And finally ...

Thank you for your continued support during this busy transition period. Have a wonderful weekend!

Tips to thrive, not just survive in the school holidays!



Surviving the summer holidays with primary school kids comes down to protecting your energy, routine, and wallet. Some top practical, stress-busting tips for parents to navigate the long summer break are below: -

Managing Time & Routines

- Keep a loose morning routine: Do not let kids sleep in or stay in pyjamas until noon every day. Keeping a regular wake-up and breakfast time prevents behaviour meltdowns and makes bedtime much easier.

- Create a visual weekly calendar: Draw a simple chart on a whiteboard or paper. Mark down "busy days" (trips out) and "lazy days" (home time) so kids know exactly what to expect and stop asking "what are we doing today?"
- Enforce mandatory quiet time: Set aside 1 hour every afternoon, even for older primary kids, where everyone goes to their own space for quiet reading, colouring, or audiobooks. This gives you a vital, guaranteed break.

Parent Sanity & Self-Care

- Lower your domestic standards: Accept right now that your house will not be perfectly clean for the next six weeks. Focus on keeping the kitchen usable and let the toy clutter go until the evening.
- Form a parent tag-team: Coordinate with local friends or parents from school. Swap kids for a few hours - you take theirs on Tuesday morning, they take yours on Thursday afternoon. Both of you get a completely free block of solo time.

Some more ideas for things to do to keep the children entertained during the school holidays!

Blackpool offers several excellent completely free activities for families:

Active & Sports Freebies -

- Under-16s Free Swimming: Primary kids can swim for free during designated daytime slots throughout the summer holidays. This is available at Moor Park Health & Leisure Centre and Palatine Leisure Centre. *Note: Children must have a free Active Blackpool Leisure Card, and those under 8 must be accompanied by an adult in the pool.*
- Free Park Tennis: You can book free public tennis courts for family games across local parks, including Anchorsholme Park, Cavendish Road, Claremont, and Highfield Parks.

Creative & Library Events

- Summer Reading Challenge: Head to any Blackpool Library to sign your kids up for this national summer challenge. Children read books over the holidays, collect stickers, and win free prizes.
- Free Library Craft Workshops: Libraries across town host drop-in "Story and Craft" sessions specifically designed for children aged 5–11. These are completely free and require no advance booking.

Park Events & Nature Trails

- Love Parks Week Events: During the summer, [Blackpool Council Park Rangers](#) and Active Blackpool host organized family fun days in local parks. Expect free daily

activities like superhero-themed games, cricket taster sessions, and nature hunts, particularly at Stanley Park and Kingscote Park.

- Marton Mere Local Nature Reserve: Perfect for a summer walk, this nearby reserve features designated woodland trails and bird-watching hides where primary kids can spot dragonflies, birds, and local wildlife.

School Uniform



UNITY UNIFORM

The branded uniform will be stocked at Bispham Clothing (01253 276047) and Ragamuffins (01253 390717). If you need any assistance with purchasing uniform please contact Alyson 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



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 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.)



Dates for the Diary



Please see the noticeboards out the front of school for the most recent and up to date diary dates.

Primary Reward & Consequence System



As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting every child to thrive, we are excited to introduce a new Rewards and Consequences system across school. This is designed to celebrate the fantastic behaviour we see from the vast majority of our pupils each day, while also helping us guide them when things don't quite go to plan. The system will run from Nursery right through to Year 11, with small differences between Primary and Secondary to suit the age of the pupils.

In Primary, children can earn a *Ready, Respectful, Safe (RRS)* reward point in every lesson by meeting our behaviour expectations. On occasions where a child goes above and beyond, teachers may also give an *Exceeding Expectations* award, worth 5 RRS points. Student of the Lesson cards will no longer be handed out. We are already seeing how motivated the children are to collect these points and celebrate their success.

If a child's behaviour falls short of expectations, we use a clear and fair set of consequences (C1–C5) to help them get back on track. More details can be found in the table overleaf.

All Rewards and Consequences are logged so you can see how your child is doing by checking the behaviour section of the *My Child At School (MCAS)* app. Details for how to sign up to the app can be found on the primary newsletter. Please use this link <https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin> to login to the app.

For Primary children, if a C2 is given, parents/carers will be updated by text message at the end of the day. Please ensure that we always have your correct mobile number in school. For a C3, C4, or C5, the class teacher will contact you in person or by phone to talk through what happened and how we can support your child moving forward.

This system has been shared and discussed with the children in school, and they are really enthusiastic about earning points and making positive choices.

We would like to take the opportunity to stress how vital it is that parents support us in upholding our new behaviour reward and consequence system. Should the need arise, we carefully and fairly unpick every situation, always working to ensure that children are treated consistently. Please note that we gain nothing from misrepresenting their behaviour so when staff in school inform you of any situation, we do so to give you a full and clear picture. For this system to truly benefit all children, it's essential that the messages we share in school are reinforced at home. Our expectations are clear and simple, rooted in our values of being **Ready, Respectful and Safe**, and our school rules of '**good looking**', '**good listening**', '**good sitting**', '**kind friends**'. When school and home work together with the same expectations, children thrive in a safe, supportive and consistent environment.

We believe this approach will not only encourage and celebrate the wonderful behaviour we see in school every day but also help strengthen the important partnership between home and school.

Thank you for your continued support — it really does make such a difference. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at school if you'd like to talk about this further.

Mr T Cooper, Assistant Headteacher

R1	An RRS point awarded for meeting expectations.	C1	A direct reminder of RRS expectations
R2	100 RRS points achieved, text message home to inform parents.	C2	A formal warning, recorded on Class Charts
R3	200 RRS points achieved, certificate awarded in assembly.	C3	15 minutes reflection in buddy class
R4	500 RRS points achieved, badge awarded in assembly.	C4	Remainder of session (AM/PM) in Reflection Room
R5	1000 RRS points achieved, invitation to end of year rewards trip.	C5	Day in the Reflection Room

Attendance



	<i>Attendance %</i>	<i>Late marks</i>
• RHH	92.67	2
• 1MT	96.91	3
• 2BH	97.62	1
• 2JB	95.51	4
• 3KG	98.96	0
• 3HP	94.17	5

• 4CBL	98.55	3
• 4HB	90.83	1
• 5MB	93.10	3
• 5JH	92.59	2
• 6TT	83.33	0
• 6VA	86.78	4

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, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's Following Feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-18s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12-15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £3.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chance of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is falling to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.

See full reference list on our website

Nursery



This week in Nursery we have read the story, 'The Sun Thief.' We have spent the week learning all about summer, we have spent time discussing the changes we have seen and telling each other our favourite activities to do in summer. The children have then drawn a picture of their favourite activity.

We have also spent time recapping our 2D shapes, we have go over how many sides the shapes have and

Reception



The children had a very exciting week spending time with their new class teacher, Mrs Blunden! To help with the transition, everyone created their own wonderful "worry monster" and we spent some time talking about all the things we are excited about, as well as anything making us feel a little nervous about moving to Year 1. We read the lovely story ***Ruby's Worry*** and learned a very important lesson: sharing a worry with a trusted adult is the absolute best way to shrink it down to nothing.

We have also spent time looking back and reflecting on our favorite parts of our whole year in Reception, sharing some wonderful memories together. It has been a beautiful week of building confidence, celebrating our achievements, and looking forward to new adventures!

Year 1



What a brilliantly busy and fun-filled week we have had! The children have dived into their learning across the curriculum with immense enthusiasm and curiosity. A major highlight was our transition day, where the children spent a fantastic time getting to know their new teacher, Mrs. Bateman. They handled the change beautifully and are already looking forward to the exciting journey ahead. A massive well done to all of Year 1 for bringing such a positive, shining attitude to school this week.

Year 2



We have had another fantastic week of learning in Year 2! In math's, we took our fraction learning a step further by exploring non-unit fractions, working hard to recognise both the

shaded and unshaded parts of different shapes. In English, the children used their wonderful imaginations to rewrite the story of Grandad's Island. They came up with some incredibly creative settings and new characters to put their own unique twist on Grandad's journey.

For our Crest Awards in science, we turned into mini-scientists to investigate "confusing cans," using our senses and inquiry skills to predict what was hidden inside without opening them. It has been wonderful to see their problem-solving skills in action across all our subjects. Have a lovely weekend!

The Year 2 Team

Year 3



It has been a busy and productive week in Year 3 as the children prepare for the transition to next year. In English, they have been planning a recount focused on the life of Usain Bolt, while in maths, they took part in an arithmetic check to look back at the skills they have mastered this term. Our science lessons were spent creating posters to summarise everything they have learned about plants, and in PSHE, the children had an open discussion about their expectations and any worries they have about moving into Year 4. On Thursday it was Transition Day, where the children spent time in their new classrooms with their new teacher. The children were so well behaved and should be very proud of how well they adapted to the upcoming change.

Well done Year 3! We hope you have a lovely weekend

Year 4



Year 5



It has been another fantastic week in Year 5!

Firstly, the children had their very first taste of Year 6 this week during a highly successful 'Moving Up' day. It was wonderful to see them return to the classroom with so many happy faces, full of excitement and confidence for the year ahead. They have certainly shown they are ready for the next step in their primary journey.

Macbeth Production Reminder

Our Year 5 production of *Macbeth* is fast approaching next week on **Thursday, 9th July**. The children have been working incredibly hard on their rehearsals, learning lines, and mastering the stage directions, and it promises to be a brilliant show.

Costumes: Please could parents and carers send in any remaining costumes **as soon as possible** so that we can run our final dress rehearsals smoothly.

Finally, a massive thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support at home. Whether it is helping to practice lines, listening to reading, or providing general encouragement, your partnership makes a huge difference to the children's progress and enthusiasm.

Have a wonderful weekend! The year 5 team.

Year 6



It has been a big week for Year 6, as the children spent time in their new secondary schools and settings for transition day. On Friday morning, it was a pleasure to hear so many happy stories about the experiences the children enjoyed.

This week we also welcomed a nurse who talked to us about how our bodies change as we grow older, and a police officer who spoke about being criminally responsible now that we have reached the age of 10+ and how our choices can affect our later life. This was all before being called out to a job! 6TT will therefore have their talk at a later date. It has been a thoughtful and informative week, and we are very proud of how mature and positive the children have been.

Next week, the children will be attending a mental wellbeing webinar from Kooth Digital Health, a company who provides an anonymous, online counselling and emotional wellbeing service for young people aged 10+. [Kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com) is a clinically approved service, commissioned and funded by the NHS or Local Council, and is free to use by young people in our area. They offer a range and choice of support options under one digital roof, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Young people can **access one to one text based counselling sessions** with Kooth's

team of experienced practitioners up to 10pm every night. Kooth also provides **fully safeguarded** and **pre-moderated** self help content. Kooth is the only digital mental health provider to hold a BACP (British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy) accreditation across the Country. They ensure that all subjects are age-appropriate. All of these subjects affecting young peoples' mental health are presenting issues that Kooth and other mental health providers see from **all** age groups. Kooth delivers hundreds of awareness webinars every year for young people in schools across the UK, on key topics that often match the PSHE curriculum. During the webinar, Kooth will share some articles that are featured on kooth.com. If you are interested in knowing more about Kooth, and the ways they can also support you as parents, please visit <https://connect.kooth.com/>. You can also direct any further questions about Kooth by emailing parents@kooth.com.

Star of the week



- **RHH - Ellie - For always having a fantastic attitude to learning and listening carefully to feedback from teachers!**
- **1MT - Boran - For always being the most fantastic role model for our school values!**
- **2BH - Ophelia - For working super hard to improve her writing and challenging herself, with support.**
- **2JB - Leo - For a positive change seen in his English writing where he is engaging more with his learning.**
- **3KG - Aaron -James - For his fantastic attitude to learning, which has helped him make a big improvement in his arithmetic score.**
- **3HP - Joshua - For being a kind and helpful friend by supporting other children with their learning.**
- **4CBL - Caylan - For having a wonderful attitude to learning and showing resilience!**

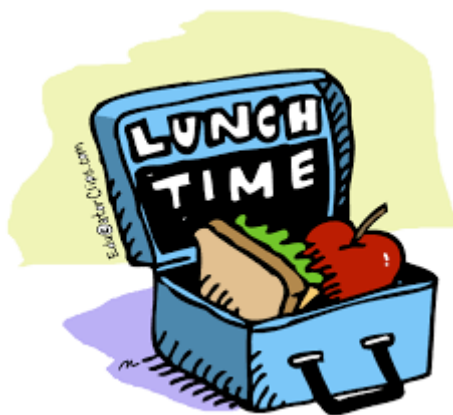
- 4HB - Cody - For her hard work with reading and positive attitude towards learning!
- 5JH - Amelia - For her fantastic attitude to learning especially in maths.
- 5MB - All of 5MB - For being so kind and caring, thank you.
- 6TT - Zekiye, Damson & Anumi. - For being good helpers in the lower years for transition day.
- 6VA - Logan - For giving mature advice to a younger student to help them, having reflected on his own school journey.

Positive Noticing

Year 1 For immaculate behaviour during our visit to the Lancashire Music Bus. You were wonderful role models!

Year 6 For their mature response to the school nurse visits - very respectful indeed.

Lunchtime menu for next week



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cook's Choice Homemade Pizza (v), Herby Diced Potatoes, Peas or Baked Beans or Cheese Puff Pastry Whirl (v), Oven Baked Herby Potatoes, Peas or Baked Beans	Roast Chicken or Quorn Fillet, Mash Potato, Sage & Onion Stuffing, Season Veg & Gravy or Cheese & Baked Bean Puff Pastry Parcel, Mash Potato & Seasonal Veg	Chicken Tikka Curry, Mixed Rice & Naan Bread or Pasta in a Spicy Tomato Sauce (v), Homemade Dough Balls & Mixed Salad	British Beef Burger with Tortilla Chips, Vegetable Sticks & Mixed Salad or Vegetable Pasta Bake (v), Wholemeal Bread & Mixed Salad	Crispy Coated Fillet of Fish, Oven Baked Chips, Garden Peas or Baked Beans or Quorn Dippers (v), Oven Baked Chips, Garden Peas or Baked Beans