



Unity Academy Primary Newsletter  
7/3/2025

Your weekly roundup of all things years N -6!



A message from Mrs. Shaw

## A Message From Mrs. Shaw

We have had a real focus on all things 'Positive' this week. Our teaching Assistants have been awarding Ready, Respectful and Safe badges to children who consistently meet our school expectations. Class teachers gave out Progress Awards in assembly to children who have been resilient and working hard towards achieving something that they have previously found tough. Primary children joined in with the whole school Positive Noticing Day on Wednesday and every child was given a label that highlighted something positive about them. We also distributed 42 silver badges to the children who have been in school on time, every day since September. What a busy week we have had but it has been so nice focusing on the good things that are happening in school.

### **World Book Day**

We celebrated World Book Day this week and instead of dressing up, we asked the primary children to use a wooden spoon to create a character from a book or a shoe box to represent their favourite story. We were absolutely blown away by the effort everyone went to. You really are a creative bunch! Well done to Laiken, Jasmine and William who won the decorated spoons competition and Maci Lei, Jake and Evie who won the decorated shoe box competition. The children received a bundle of books in assembly this morning.

100 primary children came back at 5pm last night in their pyjamas to take part in Book at Bedtime. Huge thanks to that staff that gave up their own time to share stories and hot chocolates with the children.

## **Year 6**

Next week we will be holding our next set of mock SATs. This is another opportunity for the children to show how much they have learned and how prepared they are! I spoke to them all after assembly this morning and reminded them of the importance of trying their very best and about having a good night's sleep so that they feel in a positive frame of mind. All Year 6 children have been asked to come straight to the small dining room first thing on Monday morning where we will provide breakfast for them before they head off into their groups to complete their SATs tests. It is very important that ALL Year 6 arrive on time every day but especially next week. They can come into the small dining room for breakfast from 8:30am. This can be accessed from the door in the main entrance. Precision tutoring and LBQ sessions will continue as normal. Thank you.

## **Diary Dates**

- 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
- 24th March - Primary Parents Evening
- 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 ...** have a great weekend everyone!





## Parents Evening

I am pleased to invite you to book an appointment with your child's class teacher at our upcoming Parents' Evening which will be held on Monday, 24th March 2025, to discuss your child's progress, achievements and next steps. These meetings play a vital role in ensuring your child receives the best possible support, both in school and at home, and allows us to work together to provide the encouragement and guidance they need to progress and thrive.

Appointments will be available between 3:30 pm and 7:00 pm on Monday, 24th March, and will be five minutes long. Prior to Parents' Evening, you will receive a mid-year written progress report which will give you the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and next steps with their class teacher.

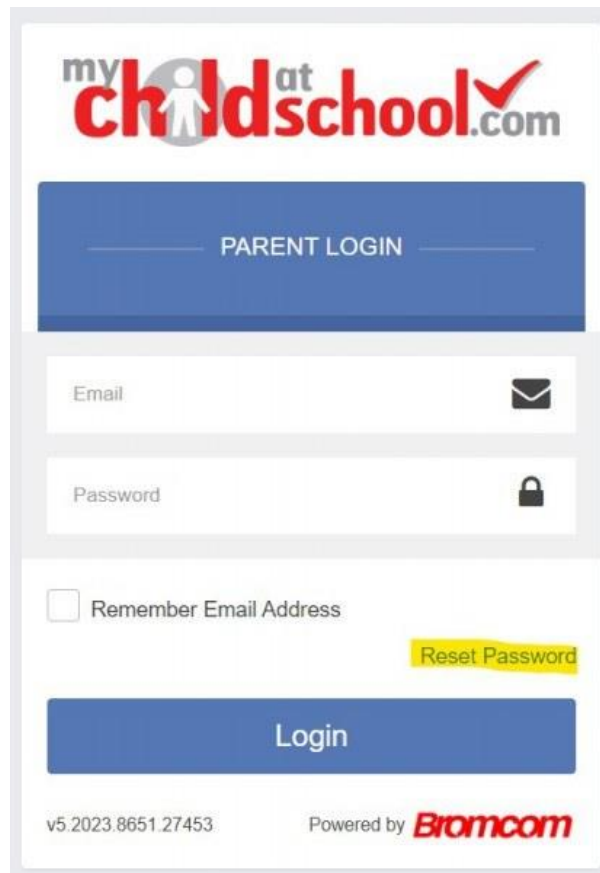
We are trialling a change to our reporting procedures this academic year and instead of a full end of year report, you will receive a more detailed report now about your child's progress so far. There will also be targets for Reading, Writing and Maths and some suggestions for how you could support at home. At the end of the year, the report will include a personalised general comment. It will also show if they have achieved the age expected standards and there will be some suggested next steps for the next academic year. Our reasoning behind this is so that you have a clear picture of where your child is in their learning and therefore can support at home, rather than it being at the end of the year.

Parents' Evening appointments can be booked via the MCAS (My Child At School) App by selecting 'Parents' Evening' from the options menu. The booking system is open from today and will close at noon on Wednesday, 19th March 2025.

If you do not have access to the MCAS App, please complete the electronic form by scanning the QR code below, an appointment will be made and the time will be confirmed with you. If you have more than one child in school, please complete the form for each child separately.

We look forward to welcoming you into school on 24th March to discuss your child's progress so far this year. If you have any questions regarding Parents' Evening or booking an

appointment, Mr Cooper will be available in the Community Hub at 2:45pm on Tuesday 11th March and 9am on Friday 14th March.. Alternatively, please contact him via the main school office.



The image shows a screenshot of the 'my child at school.com' parent login interface. At the top is the logo for 'my child at school.com' with a red checkmark. Below the logo is a blue button labeled 'PARENT LOGIN'. Underneath are two input fields: 'Email' with an envelope icon and 'Password' with a lock icon. There is a checkbox for 'Remember Email Address' and a yellow 'Reset Password' button. A large blue 'Login' button is at the bottom. At the very bottom, it says 'v5.2023.8651.27453' and 'Powered by Bromcom'.







## 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)



# Being A Parent



These fantastic free sessions are run by friendly local parents. They provide practical tips and advice on how to bring up confident happy and co-operative children.

**The group lasts for 9 weeks and free childcare is available.**

Time	Venue	Starting	Ending
6.00pm – 8.00pm	Online using Google Meet	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July
9.30am – 11.30am	North Family Hub Dingle Ave FY3 7NX	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July

## Topics covered include:

- Communicating with your child
- Understanding their behaviour
- Discipline strategies
- Listening skills
- Coping with stress

“The course wasn’t what I expected at all, it’s shown me that I’m not alone and given me the confidence boost I needed. I’ve learned there’s no such thing as a perfect parent and my relationship with my son has grown so much stronger.”

For more information or to book, contact Blackpool Learning Rooms on 07796 994783 or email [learning.rooms@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:learning.rooms@blackpool.gov.uk)

**Blackpool  
Family Hubs**



EMPOWERING  
PARENTS  
EMPOWERING  
COMMUNITIES



Education & Skills  
Funding Agency



matrix

**Blackpool Council**

BLACKPOOL LEARNING ROOMS



## 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>93.75</i>	<i>6</i>
• <i>1CL</i>	<i>92.27</i>	<i>4</i>
• <i>1MT</i>	<i>94.40</i>	<i>8</i>

• <b>2BH</b>	<b>91.67</b>	<b>5</b>
• <b>2AP</b>	<b>91.88</b>	<b>6</b>
• <b>3KG</b>	<b>93.50</b>	<b>11</b>
• <b>3HB</b>	<b>90.87</b>	<b>9</b>
• <b>4JB</b>	<b>90.45</b>	<b>4</b>
• <b>4CBL</b>	<b>98.21</b>	<b>8</b>
• <b>5MB</b>	<b>98.33</b>	<b>14</b>
• <b>5NO</b>	<b>97.50</b>	<b>12</b>
• <b>6TT</b>	<b>92.67</b>	<b>2</b>
• <b>6VA</b>	<b>93.75</b>	<b>10</b>

Keeping children safe!





# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

**SNAP STREAK**  
**97**  
**DAYS**

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
**13+**

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which can be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

### PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 85% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

### MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

### SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so setting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

### ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide live location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

### BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

### FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgmentally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

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## Celebrating Culture and Difference



Friday 14th is Holi - the Hindu festival of colour that celebrates the victory of good over evil and the end of winter. [Click here to learn more](#)



Ramadan - the Islamic holy month of fasting enters it's second week. [Click here to learn more](#)



## Nursery



This week in Nursery we have been reading the story 'A Superhero like you.' We have spoken about the different job roles we have in our community. We have match people to the correct professions and have used our phonetic knowledge to listen for and write sounds in some words.

We have continued our work on repeated patterns and talking about different patterns we can see in the environment.

## Reception



This week we had our first session with Ollie from Blackpool Football Club. The children behaved brilliantly and everyone joined in fully with the activities. They had to move in different ways and at different speeds. They also had to move into spaces and change directions whilst watching out for others which is actually a tricky thing to do. Well done Reception!

Huge thanks to everyone who sent in a decorated spoon or shoe box for World Book Day. The children have loved sharing what they have created with you and we hope you had a lot of fun with your child.



Year 1



Year 2



What a brilliant week Year 2 have had!!

In English we have celebrated world book day all week by looking at our favourite books and discussing who our favourite book characters are and why. We then did some free writing and wrote a story all about our favourite book character using adjectives in our writing.

In Maths we have been looking at division and done lots of practical work to help us with our dividing skills.

In science we have started looking at life cycles and this week we have been looking at the butterfly lifecycle and created our own butterfly lifecycle.

In geography we have been looking at the continent Australia and used the atlas' to see what oceans and seas surround Australia. We then labeled the oceans and seas on our own maps.

On Wednesday it was positive noticing day and we all got a tag and wrote some positive and kind about another person and gave it to them.

On Thursday we celebrated world book day by making our own book marks, continued writing our stories about our favourite characters and read some of our favourite books together as a class. Well done to all the children who use a wooden spoon/shoe box to create a character/scene from their favourite story.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend!!







Year 3



Another great, busy week in year 3!

This week in Maths, we have been looking at length and perimeter. We have been converting mm, cm and m, accurately measuring and comparing lengths. Please test us on this at home!

In English, we have taken part in a range of World Book Day activities, including: writing a book blurb, drawing our own characters and designing bookmarks! Alongside all these exciting activities we have also been rehearsing for our assembly on Tuesday 11th March. Please arrive at the main reception at 2.20pm for a prompt 2.30pm start.

In Science, we have been looking at light and how it reflects on objects to help us see. We draw a diagram to accurately show this information.

Please continue to read 3 times weekly and ensure that your reading record is in school every day.

Year 4



### **What another busy week!**

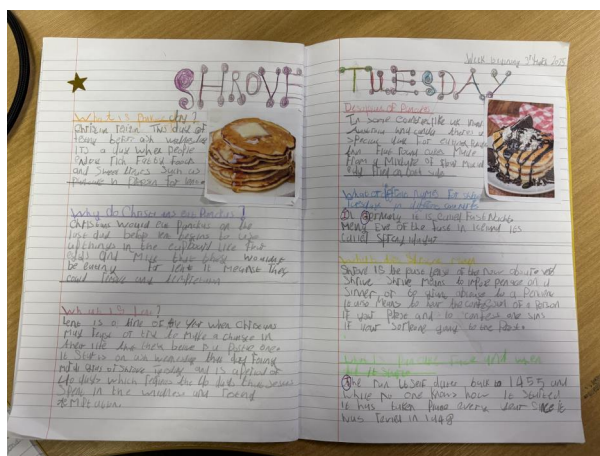
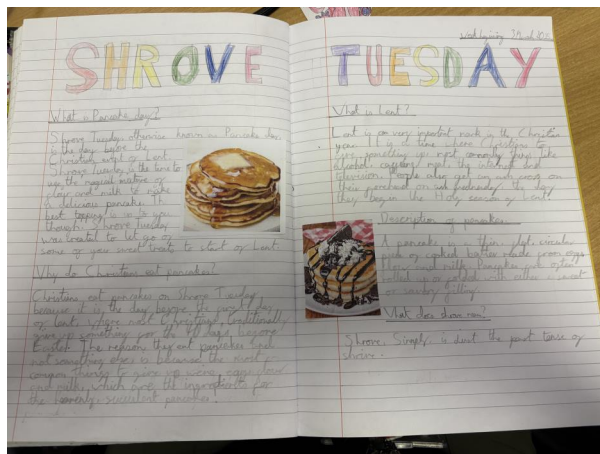
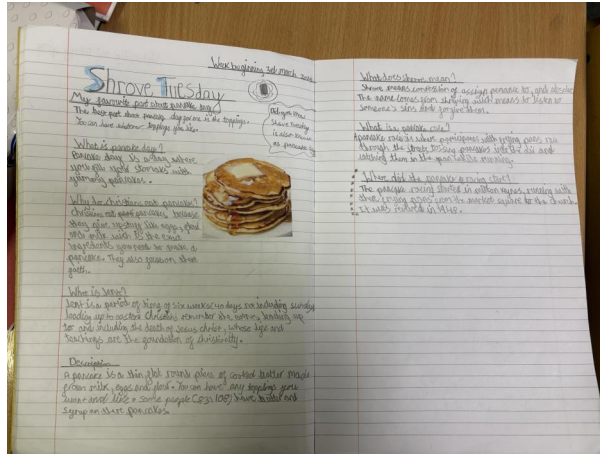
Thursday was **World Book Day**, and we celebrated in style with a special **off-timetable day!** We took part in two exciting **live lessons**—a "**Footy and Booky**" **quiz**, where football players challenged us with book-related questions, and a **BBC live lesson**, where we participated in a **one-minute read**.

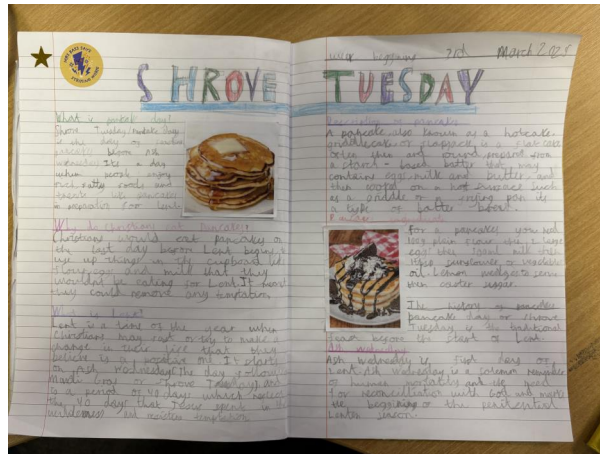
**English:** We got creative, producing stunning **double-page spreads** all about **Pancake Day**—and to top it off, we even enjoyed a **delicious pancake** on Tuesday!

**Maths:** This week, we've been diving into the world of **fractions** and sharpening our problem-solving skills.

**Date for your diary: Friday 21st March 2025 – World Poetry Day Assembly**

**Have a lovely weekend, The Year 4 Team**





Year 5

Year 5



Year 5 have had a fantastic learning week this week!

### **Maths**

We came to the end of our second Fractions unit of the year and all we can say is WOW! The children have blown our socks off with the progress they have made in fractions. We have looked at some really tricky concepts, such as multiplying fractions and finding fractions of amounts. Keep practising at home Year 5!

### **Science**

This half term we are exploring working scientifically. This week, the children carried out a survey to find out which tree would be best to plant in a town centre. They had to consider different residents wishes and they created their own tally chart based on the research they carried out. They were so sensible walking through school, speaking to many people to find out which tree they would prefer. We are so proud of their impeccable behaviour during this activity.

### **Positive noticing**

This week, we have all been looking at positivity. On Wednesday, you may have noticed your child come home with a tag attached to them. The children wrote some lovely messages and the staff also received some positive messages too. I think we can all say we went home with huge smiles on our faces!

### **World Book Day**

Firstly, thank you for your support with our out of school competitions and we are so proud of Jasmine in Year 5 who won one of the prizes! In Year 5, we celebrated World Book Day by taking part in the World Book Day Footy and Booky Quiz. We also took part in a live reading session with a famous teacher and educator, Jane Considine. At Unity, we value reading for pleasure and it was so lovely to see so many children return to school for Book at Bedtime, to simply enjoy a good book. We hope you can continue sharing our love of reading at home with your children. It is an expectation to read at home 3 times a week and your support with this is always appreciated.

Have a wonderful weekend and we are looking forward to another week of learning next week! The Year 5 Team



## Year 6



Next week we will be holding our next set of mock SATs. This is another opportunity for the children to show how much they have learned and how prepared they are! Mrs Shaw spoke to them all after assembly this morning and reminded them of the importance of trying their very best and about having a good night's sleep so that they feel in a positive frame of mind. All Year 6 children have been asked to come straight to the small dining room first thing on Monday morning where we will provide breakfast for them before they head off into their groups to complete their SATs tests. It is very important that ALL Year 6 arrive on time every day but especially next week. They can come into the small dining room for breakfast from 8:30am. This can be accessed from the door in the main entrance. Precision tutoring and LBQ sessions will continue as normal. Thank you.

We had a quick look at the Attitude to Learning Credit totals earlier this week and we are pleased to say that some children are already hitting 11 points. They are so close to the target of 15 - well done to those children! Remember to earn these credits your child needs to be in school on time, every day and have a positive attitude to learning in school - so no behaviour points! Taking part in the Precision Tutoring/ LBQ sessions and completing home learning will also earn points! You can earn your child a point by attending the upcoming parents evening on 24th March.

Have a great weekend everyone, The Year 6 Team

## School Uniform



**Revised policy from September:** From September our uniform is changing. The decision was made following consultation with children, parents and staff. Large numbers of people shared their thoughts for the options given and the vast majority voted for a change to some aspects of our uniform.

As a reminder, please have a look at the list below and make sure your children are correctly dressed for both the school day and PE. To request items of uniform please click [here](#) and complete the short form. We will do our best to meet your needs, stock permitting.

### **Nursery Uniform**

- Black sweatshirt with logo
- White polo shirt
- Black trousers, tracksuit bottoms or skirt
- Black shoes if wearing trousers or skirt or Trainers (preferably black) if wearing tracksuit bottoms.

### **Primary uniform - All students should wear:**

- Black V Neck school jumper with embroidered Unity Academy logo - **this item is compulsory!**
- Plain White Shirt or blouse
- Plain **black** socks or tights
- House Badge (Provided by the academy initially, replacements can be purchased from the academy)
- All black footwear with no identifiable markings. If this footwear is a boot it must be no bigger than ankle length. No crocs!

**Students have a choice of: (students must wear one of these)**

- Plain black tailored skirt
- Plain black trousers or shorts (tailored type, not tracksuit bottoms/ jeans)
- A Black Blazer with the Unity logo is optional

**P.E. Kit** - Red polo shirt    Black shorts    Black socks    Black Pumps

**Summer Uniform**








- Red check dress with white ankle socks
- Black short trousers

**If your child has outgrown any uniform items and they are in good condition, please do send them into school where they can be added to our supply for other parents to access.**





**Thank you**

**UNITY UNIFORM** | The branded uniform will be stocked at Blispham Clothing (01263 276847) and Ragamuffins (01263 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

 <b>Plain white shirt</b> No logo or branding	or	 <b>Unity logo jumper</b> Plain black V-neck jumper with Unity logo on the left chest	or	 <b>Unity logo cardigan</b> Plain black cardigan with Unity logo on the left chest	or	 <b>Tailored Skirt</b> Plain black	or	 <b>Trousers</b> Plain black, no logo or branding	or	 <b>Plain black tights</b> No logo, branding or pattern. Available at many retailers.	 <b>Plain black socks</b>
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**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
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**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>
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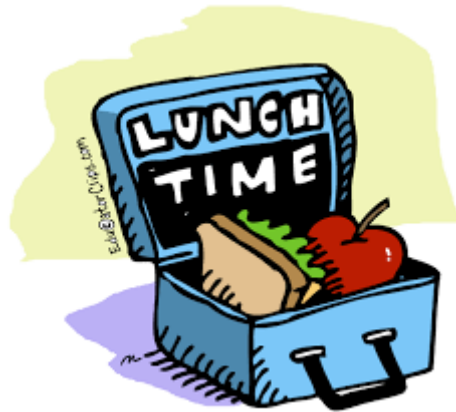
**Unity Academy Footwear**






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.)



# Lunch time menu for this week



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