



UNITY ACADEMY BLACKPOOL

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Acting Headteacher: Mr J Connolly

12th December 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

Next week will be a very busy and exciting one, filled with various **Christmas activities and events** across the school.

It will also be the final week with us for several valued members of staff. Please join me in wishing the very best to **Ms. Crewdson** (PE and Pastoral), **Mr. Sema** (MFL), and **Ms. Oliver** (Learning Support).

We are also pleased to welcome some new members of staff and celebrate internal promotions. We extend a warm welcome to **Ms. Redman** as our new Head of MFL, and congratulations to **Mr. Davenport**, who is expanding his pastoral role to become **Head of Key Stage 3** in place of Ms. Crewdson.

Finally, a quick reminder that while **Primary School will remain open** as usual next Friday, **school will be closed to all Secondary pupils** on that day.

[What have we been up to this week?](#)

It was so wonderful to take so many of our primary children to the pantomime at the beginning of this week. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and behaved brilliantly. The staff spent more time watching our children than the show itself as they love seeing the look of pure joy and excitement on their little faces! Huge thanks must go to Mr Cooper and the whole team for the organisation and staffing of the event.

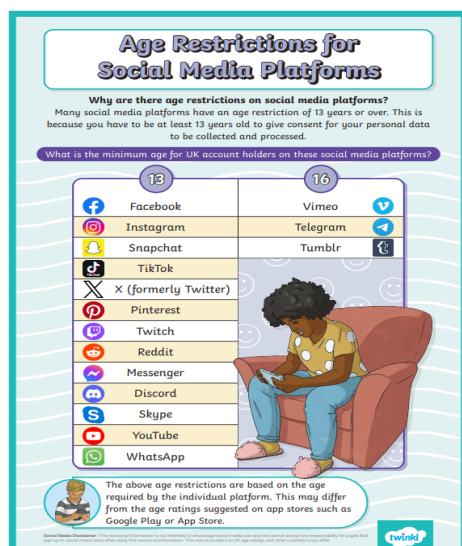
Wednesday evening brought our Year 6 Steps to Success evening. We shared the children's first set of mock results and gave further details about SATs tests and how families can support at home. The Year 6 cohort this year are fully engaged with everything we are putting in place so I am hoping for another set of phenomenal results in the Summer Term!

This afternoon Year 3 and 4 children held their Carol Service. It was a lovely event and I'm sure you enjoyed it as much as we did. There was singing, dancing, a sign language performance and even a light show! Well done everyone and thank you to the team who co-ordinated it all!

Our RRS Behaviour Curriculum this week focused on '**managing our own expectations**'. This means having a realistic idea of what you can do if something doesn't quite go as you'd hoped and what might happen. It's important because it helps young children handle disappointments and not be too hard on themselves. Instead of getting upset when things don't go perfectly, they can feel proud of their hard work and what they've achieved. This helps them to stay positive, feel more confident and be ready to face any challenges that come their way.



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Primary children and technology

As some children may well be lucky enough to receive new technology over Christmas, next week's RRS Behaviour Curriculum will focus on being kind online and cyberbullying. Please remember the message we shared last week about age restrictions on social media apps - including WhatsApp. The attached image makes it very clear the age restrictions in place for the different social media apps. As we have no children in primary that are 13 years of age - none of them should be accessing them! It is a parents responsibility to fully know and understand what their child is accessing online. Mrs Shaw knows she sounds old when she says this ... but in days gone by, friendship fallouts pretty much ended at the end of the school day, now sadly, contact can continue 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! Please keep a close eye on your child when they are using technology - thank you!

This week in the secondary phase, we have been practising our line-up routines in preparation for the new term. From January, students (with the exception of Year 11, who will continue to go directly to lessons) will line up after lunch to ensure a calmer, more focused start to Period 5. Early practice has been positive and staff have supported this consistently.

We have also celebrated the first of our Christmas Cracker winners in Years 7, 8 and 9, recognising students with excellent attendance. Year 10 and Year 11 winners will be announced next week.

Within the RRS curriculum, students have explored the importance of self-belief, and Mr Connolly has addressed all year groups to outline key changes for students from January, ensuring clarity and consistency moving into the new term.

Finally, staff have been busy rehearsing for the Christmas Panto, which will be performed for all students in Years 5–11 next Thursday. This promises to be a positive and memorable end-of-term experience for students.

New Messages

Punctuality is a vital life skill. Being in school, on time, every day helps children maintain their rhythm of learning, keep up academic progress and enjoy social aspects of school. Lateness to lessons is highly disruptive to learning. Current punctuality is much better than last year but it is still not good enough and far too many secondary students are **late to school or to lessons for no good reason.**



Secondary: - From January 2026, sanctions for being late to school and/or lesson will include **both a Daily Late Detention** (until 3.30pm) and a **Noncompliance Detention** (1 hour after school on Friday) for any students who refuse to attend a daily detention, with further escalation to a Reflect and Restore placement if necessary. In all cases, parents will be informed by text if their child is in detention and 24 hours prior notice will be given of a Noncompliance Detention.

I wish you all the very best for the festive season ahead.

Thank you in anticipation of your support

[Repeated Messages](#)



Primary parents : - Managing Social Media and Messaging in a 24/7 World

The digital age has fundamentally changed childhood friendships, and we want to highlight the importance of actively managing your child's social media and messaging usage, including platforms like WhatsApp. Age restrictions, such as the minimum age of 13 for most social media apps, are in place for critical safety and developmental reasons; they protect children from content and interactions they are not emotionally ready to handle. Unlike previous generations where playground disagreements ended at the school gates, constant access to phones means friendship fallouts can now continue 24 hours a day, leading to increased stress and anxiety. We strongly encourage all parents to enforce these age restrictions and to take an active role in monitoring what their children are sending and

receiving. Checking your child's social media and message content is a crucial part of your parental responsibility to ensure their safety and well-being, helping to shield them from inappropriate material and harmful exchanges.

Primary Tours

Following our successful Open Evening event, there is an additional primary tour date booked in for Monday 12th January at 9:45 am - please share this date with anyone who has a child due to start in Reception for September 2026. To book onto the tour, please contact the school office on 01253 355493.

[Standing Messages](#)

Primary Newsletter (Primary Parents/ Carers) - Please [click here](#) to view the primary newsletter.

My Child at School App (All Parents/ Carers)

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[Please click here](#) for a link to the site. If you access this on a mobile device, you can access the links for the apps. If you have not signed up, please download the app from the relevant app store, click 'sign up' and use the school postcode (FY2 0TS) or school ID (14676) to register. You must register with the email address we hold on our system for you. Parents are now able to access attendance information on the My Child at School app, and behaviour reports (Positive and Negative) are now also available.

Reporting Bullying/ Pastoral Concerns (All Parents/ Carers)

The link to raise a concern remains on the website. Click on the three lines and choose to raise a pastoral/bullying concern under the parents heading. These concerns are reviewed by the senior team and allocated to the most appropriate member of staff to investigate and communicate with parents.

Online Safety Support for Parents/ Carers (All Parents/ Carers)

Click [here](#) to access the link to this week's online safety guide for parents. You can also sign up for The National College for free and view a wide range of resources and videos to support your family with online safety. To do this, follow the link below:

Sign up tutorial video - <https://help.nationalcollege.com/parent-walkthrough>

Sign up for The National College - <https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/unity-academy-blackpool>

Yours sincerely,

Mr. J. Connolly
Acting Headteacher