



UNITY ACADEMY BLACKPOOL

Warbreck Hill Road, Blackpool,
Lancashire. FY2 0TS

Tel: 01253 355493

Email: admin@unity.fcat.org.uk
www.unity.blackpool.org.uk

Acting Headteacher: Mr J Connolly

19th December 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we reach the end of the year, I want to celebrate what has been a long, demanding, yet incredibly rewarding term. Our students have worked with great resilience and have certainly earned a well-deserved rest.

We have finished this term on a definitive high note with an active and joyful final week. The **Early Years/ Year 1 Nativity** was a heartwarming start, followed by a spectacular **Primary Carol Concert** that highlighted our students' musical talents. It was also special to come together for **Whole School Carols**, celebrating our community spirit.

Finally, I hope the students enjoyed the **Staff Panto** as much as we enjoyed performing it! There were excellent performances all round this week, from our youngest pupils to the teachers.

Thank you for your continued support throughout these busy few months. I wish all our families a happy, safe, and peaceful festive period. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Monday 5th January**, refreshed and ready for the New Year.

What have we been up to this week?

The Carol Service last Friday was so lovely and certainly got us into the festive spirit ready for this week. This week started with two Nativity performances from EYFS/ Year 1. The children have worked very hard to learn their songs and the actions and I am sure you will agree that they sang beautifully. We are particularly proud of those children who had a speaking part. With each practice and performance they have grown in confidence which has been so good to see. Thank you to the staff who have worked hard to put it all together.



Lots of exciting things have been going on in primary this week and that's all on top of our usual curriculum delivery! Suffix calendars, fine motor Christmas cards and seasonal fingerprint calendars that check the children's understanding of the different seasons being made. Mrs Shaw loves the way staff weave curriculum into different activities - this may be why some children are telling you that they aren't doing anything Christmassy!! We really are! Since the start of December, some classes have elves - some are cheeky and some are kind ones. We've been to the pantomime, had parties, Christmas films and songs, had Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day, taken part in the Christmas Tree Competition and, as we have been really good, we have had a visit from the man in the red suit and every child was given a gift! We have also had our usual end of term assembly today.





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Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

Why are there age restrictions on social media platforms? Many social media platforms require users to be at least 13 years or over. This is because you have to be at least 13 years old to give consent for your personal data to be collected and processed.

What is the minimum age for UK account holders on these social media platforms?

13	16
Facebook	Vimeo
Instagram	Telegram
Snapchat	Tumblr
TikTok	
X (formerly Twitter)	
Pinterest	
Twitch	
Reddit	
Messenger	
Discord	
Skype	
YouTube	
WhatsApp	

The above age restrictions are based on the age restrictions by the individual platform. This may differ from the age ratings suggested on app stores such as Google Play or App Store.

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In our RRS assembly this week we have continued with our e-safety focus and looked at the importance of being safe and kind to others online. As we said last week in this newsletter, despite not being old enough, many children already have access to social media, including messenger apps and many will get new technology at Christmas. This means 24 hours a day, 7 days a week contact from other people which is why, firstly, it is important that they are kind to others online and secondly, know who to turn to if they receive any unkind or unwanted contact. After the holidays we will recap on our school values, rules and expectations.

It has been a positive and enjoyable finish for our secondary students, as we reach the final week of term. This week included our second Christmas lunch, the staff pantomime on the final day, and form parties for Years 7–9 and Year 11. Year 10 students spent the afternoon at their final Compass session of the year.

Through the RRS curriculum, students took part in termly celebrations, with particular recognition given to those who achieved the highest number of positive **Ready, Respectful, Safe** points this term.

We have also clearly reinforced a small number of routines that will be in place from the start of the Spring term, including bells for lessons, lining up after lunch, consistent uniform expectations, daily use of Yondr pouches, punctual movement between lessons, and walking on the left in corridors. These routines are designed to support calm, safe movement and maximise learning time.

Repeated Messages

Punctuality

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 lessons will include **both a Daily Late Detention** (until 3.30 pm) and a **Noncompliance Detention** (1 hour after school on Friday) for any



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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.

Uniform Update – Secondary Phase

From January, all secondary students who wear skirts, will be expected to wear **plain black 80 denier tights**. This change supports a smarter, more consistent appearance across the school and helps avoid the distraction and inconsistency caused by fashion variations. There will be no additional cost to parents initially, as the school has supplies available to support students on their return.

Later in the spring term, we will also look to **reintroduce ties for Key Stage 3 students**. Again, there will be no immediate cost to families, as we will support students with this transition.

Why are we making these changes?

These adjustments are about raising standards, reinforcing a sense of belonging, and preparing students for future expectations. A consistent, professional uniform reduces unnecessary distractions, supports positive behaviour, and reflects our shared values of being Ready, Respectful and Safe. Small details matter — they set the tone for learning.

I wish you all the very best for the festive season ahead. Thank you in anticipation of your support



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.

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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)

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)

As usual, this has closed for the half-term break and will be reopened at the start of half-term 3.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Connolly'.

Mr. J. Connolly
Acting Headteacher