



27th March 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

We would like to wish you a very happy and restful Easter break. When we return, the summer term promises to be a whirlwind of activity as we support our students through their upcoming milestones. Our KS1 learners will be sharpening their phonics skills to unlock the magic of reading, while our year 6 pupils prepare for their SATs. Meanwhile, our year 11s are entering the final sprint toward their GCSE exams, and we will be providing dedicated revision and wellbeing support every step of the way. We can't wait to see everyone back, refreshed and ready for a brilliant term ahead.

We are aware that there are rumours circulating on social media regarding a member of staff and wanted to provide reassurance in relation to this. In school we have followed all necessary steps to ensure pupils are safe, **we are confident that no pupils have been harmed and the concern is not related to any activity in connection with the school.**

We are following directions from the Local Authority Designated Officer and are therefore not in a position to share any further information. Our focus in school remains strongly centred on supporting pupils' achievement and maintaining the strong and positive learning environment, we appreciate your support with this.

We would appreciate your support at this time to limit speculation around this issue.

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

We had an English Hub visit this week, which we are pleased to say went well. Huge thanks to the phonics teaching team and Mrs Hanvey as our Early Reading Lead. The Hub Lead commented that "Some children have made massive leaps in progress, which is really good to see". She also recognised the impact that our phonics precision tutoring is having on outcomes for the children who are attending. If your child is in Year 1 and Year 2 and did not pass their Phonics Screening Check last year and does not attend, contact a member of staff who will get them signed up!

Year 1 held their Easter assembly this week. It made Mrs Shaw quite emotional seeing how much their confidence has developed to speak in front of an audience to share their knowledge of all things Spring and Easter. They've grown up so much since their EYFS Nativity performance!

Primary's RRS assembly this week was based on taking care of our environment using the book 'Tidy' by Emily Gravett. We discussed how looking after our school environment and resources demonstrates our 'safe' and 'respectful' school values. We will begin next half term with a re-focus on our school values and classroom rules.

Primary Decorated Eggs Competition - There were some fantastic entries this year, and it really was difficult to choose winners. Well done to everyone for taking part. Please see the winners below!



Nursery - Oakley and Cora
Reception - Jax and Mikkel
Year 1 - Krissy and Theo
Year 2 - Evie-Rae and Vanessa
Year 3 - Darci-Mai and Alliyah
Year 4 - Archie and Reese
Year 5 - Sophie and James
Year 6 - Tia and Sophia

In our secondary phase this week, RRS curriculum and assemblies have focused on celebrating students' positive contributions and outstanding attendance. Our Year 8 students recently swapped their pens for site boots and blueprints during an inspiring partnership with George Cox & Sons; following a live construction site visit, they tackled a Project Day where they designed a new road from scratch. By investigating sustainable materials and navigating real-world constraints like budgets and pedestrian safety, they saw firsthand how classroom STEM concepts impact the world around them. Elsewhere, Year 10 showed great dedication during a Science Super Learning Day on Thursday, focused on photosynthesis, while our Year 11 cohort continues to impress as they intensify their exam preparation.

[New Messages](#)

Change to morning entry routine (Nursery to Y4)

We are making some small changes to the way some of our Primary year groups will come into school in the mornings, with effect from Monday, 13th April 2026.

Children in Reception to Year 4 will come into school through the double green gates between Nursery and the cabins. These gates will be supervised by school staff and parents can speak to staff and pass on messages as they do now. Class teachers and teaching assistants will be on the playground beyond the green gates and will supervise children on the playground until a whistle is blown and children line up before moving into school for 8:45am. To ensure the safety and flow of the morning routine, **parents will not be able to enter the playground past the green gates.**

Nursery children will enter school via the school library entrance (just to the left of the Nursery entrance) at 8:40am where they will be met by Nursery staff and will share stories together.

Gates will be opened at 8:35am and closed at 8:45am. Any children arriving after 8:45am will enter via the late gate as they currently do.

There are no changes to the morning routine for year 5 and 6 and collection arrangements at the end of the day for all year groups remains as it is now.



These changes are being put into place to reduce the amount of time it takes to get children settled into their learning in the morning and also ensure an adequate level of supervision for all children once they are dropped off at school into our care. Thank you in advance for your continued support. This has also been sent to you via MCAS.

Nursery Fees

Our Nursery fees have been reviewed and the decision taken to increase our fees from 1st June 2026. We always try to keep fee increases as low as possible, however you will be aware of rising costs which has necessitated this increase. We are making you aware of this increase now, so you have sufficient time to make any necessary arrangements regarding your funding situation. Local Authority Funding will not be affected by this change. If you are eligible, your 15 hour universal offer is free and if you have a 30 hour code, then these are free. However, charges are incurred for hours above 15 or 30 depending on your circumstances. Therefore, charges above your entitlement will be made at £9.00 per hour for 2 Year olds and £7.00 per hour for 3 year olds. This can be paid via MCAS which will be changed in June to reflect the price increase. As per our agreement with parents, fees must be paid on time via MCAS. Where any debts exist, children will be unable to attend any sessions over their free entitlement until the debt is cleared. Unity Academy aims to keep our Nursery fees as competitive as we can whilst maintaining a high quality service. Further information has been sent to parents via letter and also via MCAS.

Primary School Dinners Price Increases

We have been notified of a price increase from our catering provider for those parents paying for meals in our primary year groups, Unfortunately, we will need to pass this on to our families. The new price will be £2.85 per day (£14.25 per week) from Monday 13th April 2026. If you have any queries in this regard, please contact the school office in the first instance. Nursery lunches will also increase with the new price being £2.20 per day (£11 per week) from Monday 13th April 2026. A reminder that school lunches are paid for via MCAS. Thank you.

Repeated Messages

Uniform

As we maintain our high standards of pride in our school identity, we would like to remind parents and carers that Unity jumpers and cardigans in primary must be worn as part of the daily uniform. While we expect students to arrive at lessons and move around the academy with their jumpers on, they are always welcome to ask their teacher's permission to remove them during class if they find they are becoming too warm.

Staff changes

Miss Gleadell will be leaving us shortly to have her baby. We wish her the best of luck with her new bundle of joy when she arrives and cannot wait for baby cuddles! Mrs Bass returns from her Maternity Leave after Easter and will work alongside Miss Smith to teach 3KG until the end of the school year. There will be a handover after the holidays before Miss Gleadell starts her Maternity Leave.



Attendance

This week sees the launch of our next attendance challenge. This takes place across the 67 school days between 25th March and 17th July 2026. Very straightforwardly, attendance on all 67 days earns an invitation to our inaugural **6 7 Attendance Festival**, which will be held in the last week of the summer term. This will offer a wide range of enjoyable activities, including the ice cream van being in attendance and more! Children will be hearing much more about this from next week onwards. Please encourage your child to meet this standard and earn an invitation.

Thank you, in anticipation of your support

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 5.

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