



5th December 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am delighted to announce that the Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence (RISE) team has awarded us extra funding. This significant boost is allocated specifically to enhance our school, allowing us to invest in specialist training for staff, purchase new learning resources, and further improve the environment for our children every day.

In addition to this financial support, we have partnered with the highly respected Great Schools Trust. Their experts are now providing advice and guidance on implementing new, proven approaches to school routines and classroom teaching methods. This partnership will help us create a calmer, more structured, and even more effective learning experience for all students.

Finally, we have received very positive feedback from the Department for Education (DfE) regarding the changes we have already made and the progress we are making. This external validation confirms that we are firmly on the right track.

These are fantastic developments for our school, and we look forward to continuing this exciting journey of improvement with you.

### What have we been up to this week?

Our school choir performed last night at Abingdon Street Market and were simply fantastic! They sang beautifully and represented our school with pride. Thank you to all children and families who attended!

It's been another purposeful week in the secondary phase, with students continuing to engage positively in all areas of school life. In our Ready, Respectful, Safe (RRS) curriculum, students have been exploring the importance of Advent — not only as a period of reflection and preparation, but also as an opportunity to think about kindness, gratitude, and the small actions that make a big difference in our community.

Our Year 11 **Red vs Blue** competition has officially begun. The Blue team took the lead in the first week, but it's very early days, and there is plenty of time for the Red team to close the gap. We will continue sharing weekly updates as the competition builds. We have also launched **Stop the Drop**, our individual incentive designed to help Year 11 students maintain excellent attendance at English and maths intervention sessions. Students start with a £45 balance that can be used towards Prom tickets or Amazon vouchers, with deductions made only if sessions are missed. Early engagement has been strong, and we will be tracking and celebrating positive progress throughout the term.

This week's assemblies focused on the importance of reading. Students explored how breaking down words — through decoding, vocabulary knowledge, and understanding word structures — helps them become confident,



independent readers. They considered how strengthening these skills now will support them not only in their GCSE year, but far beyond, building resilience, curiosity, and the ability to take ownership of their learning.

This week in primary, our teaching staff engaged in valuable Pupil Progress Meetings with Mrs Shaw, Mr Brimley, and Mr Cooper. These sessions focused deeply on the progress of individual children, ensuring every child has the best opportunities to succeed, and highlighted the strong, positive relationships between staff and pupils.

In our primary RRS Behaviour Curriculum this week we have revisited the crucial topic of e-safety and the impact of technology on our sleep quality. Establishing a consistent and relaxing bedtime routine is incredibly important for children's overall health and learning. A good routine signals to the body that it's time to wind down, helping to regulate the body's natural sleep-wake cycle. However, the use of technology, such as tablets, phones, and gaming consoles, especially right before bed, can significantly disrupt this process. The blue light emitted by these screens suppresses the production of melatonin, the hormone that makes us feel sleepy, making it harder to fall asleep and reducing the quality of rest. We encourage all families to implement a "digital sunset" at least one hour before bedtime, replacing screen time with calming activities like reading a book or listening to quiet music, to ensure your child gets the restorative sleep they need to thrive. The children have had some really thoughtful discussions in classrooms this week about what they could do to get into a good bedtime routine instead of using technology!

### New Messages

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

The digital age has fundamentally changed childhood friendships, and this week 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.



**Year 6 - Steps to Success:** - Our Year 6 Steps to Success evening is taking place next **Wednesday 10th December at 3:30pm**. Parental support at this meeting is crucial as we will share the results of your child's latest mock SATs tests with you and provide details of our precision tutoring sessions and our Attitude to Learning Reward Scheme, along with





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Acting Headteacher: Mr J Connolly

ideas for how you can help your child at home. Your attendance at this meeting will earn your child their first Attitude to Learning credit! We look forward to seeing you there!

### Repeated Messages

#### 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)

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,



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