



9th January 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to a new term! We hope you and your families enjoyed a restful and refreshing break. It has been wonderful to see the pupils returning with such energy and enthusiasm for the learning ahead.

As we begin this new session, the safety of our children remains our highest priority. Unfortunately, we have had several reports of "near misses" within the school car park recently. To ensure the safety of all pupils during the busiest parts of the day, we are implementing stricter controls on vehicle access.

**Effective immediately, the school gates will be closed during the following times:**

- **Mornings:** 8:20 AM until 9:00 AM
- **Afternoons:** 2:40 PM until 3:20 PM

We kindly remind all parents and carers **not to drive onto the school car park** to drop off or pick up children. By keeping the car park clear of non-staff vehicles, we can significantly reduce the risk of accidents and create a much safer environment for the children as they enter and exit the building.

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

Mrs Hanvey shared the news that we have more children on track than ever before in Read, Write, Inc. This is testament to the hard work and focus she has put in as Early Reading Lead, the staff who teach phonics every day, along with the children who try their very best! The children love their phonics lessons and are progressing well! Reading is absolutely crucial and runs through every area of our curriculum. We are sure we don't need to point out how important it is for children to be able to read. We hear the children read in school as often as possible and provide lots of opportunities throughout all lessons for children to read aloud. The support you give them from home is so beneficial because it gives them further opportunity to practice what they have learned! Please hear your child read 3 times per week, thank you.

Our primary RRS Curriculum this week was a recap on our school expectations. We always start of the half term with a recap so that all children know what we expect and know our school values and expectations inside out! Next week, we will move onto a focus on 'Managing our Feelings' using the books *The Big Angry Roar* by Johnny Lambert.

In the secondary phase this week, we have focused on getting the basics right from day one. Assemblies have reinforced the importance of punctuality and strong attendance, alongside clear reminders about the sanctions in place for students who arrive late to school or lessons.



In RRS, we've revisited our core routines and expectations, linking these to the idea of resolutions — fresh starts, better habits, and taking responsibility for getting things right every day. A new term is a reset, but standards remain high.

### 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 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 only**. 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.

### Standing Messages

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

**UNITY ACADEMY BLACKPOOL**

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Acting Headteacher: Mr J Connolly

***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/enroll/unity-academy-blackpool>

Yours sincerely,

Mr. J. Connolly  
Acting Headteacher



**Friday January 16th**

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**MENTAL HEALTH**  
~and~  
**SEND**  
**Parents Drop In**  
**08:45 - 10:15**  
**@The Hub**

Does your child need support with their  
SEND or SEMH needs?

Do you have questions about SEND or  
mental health provision in Blackpool?

Meet our school SEND & SEMH team  
and other agencies involved in supporting  
young people in Blackpool



**SEM**

Social, Emotional and Mental Health

**FCAT**

The best we can be



**IN UNITY WE SUCCEED**  
ACADEMY BLACKPOOL