



Unity Academy Primary Newsletter
12/1/2024

Your weekly roundup of all things years N -6!



A message from Mrs. Shaw

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Happy New Year! I really hope you had a lovely Christmas break? Everyone I have spoken to has said theirs was "nice but quiet". That would also describe mine! We are back and have hit the ground running already!

Miss Bateman started our week off with a fantastic assembly based on the story of Elmer. We are taking part in the Brian House 'Elmer's Big Parade Blackpool' In Spring 2024, Blackpool will be brought to life by a herd of uniquely decorated, amazingly creative, elephant sculptures. The free, family-friendly art trail – a collaboration between Brian House Children's Hospice, Wild in Art and Andersen Press, brings David McKee's popular children's character Elmer the Patchwork Elephant to life. The children were introduced to the idea on Monday and have been given an entry form for them to create a design that celebrates 'Comm-Unity', in particular thinking about our school values. Click [here](#) for further details of the elephant trail!

Teaching and Learning

I managed to catch Year 5 and Year 6 hard at work in Maths this week. They were working on fractions and it was so good to see the progression across these year groups. All children were listening intently and were so focussed - well done! Year 1 and 2 were just coming in

from playtime and were heading to their phonics groups when I visited their corridor. Some of the children have moved phonics groups due to the fabulous progress they have made and they were very excited to join their new group. I supported some of the Reception children with their writing this week. I am so impressed with how much their confidence in their own abilities has grown - Keep trying your very best! The Nursery children were just going to lunch when I caught them. They were so good at walking sensibly to their lunch area and waiting patiently for their lunch to arrive. I was incredibly impressed with their beautiful manners too. I heard lots of 'please' and 'thank you' from them. Manners are something that, personally, I feel a very important. Good manners show respect for other people and the children know that it is something that I think very highly of.

Contact us

From Monday, our year group emails will no longer be monitored. If you wish to contact a teacher within school please use this link [Parental Messages / Queries \(Non-urgent\)](#). and they will get back to you. Messages will be passed on and dealt with as quickly as possible. Our aim is to respond to you within 48 school working hours. Please note that this may not be checked during teaching hours and so **please do not add anything urgent** e.g. about your child being collected by someone else at the end of the day. If you have an urgent message or query, please contact the school office on 01253 355493. Thank you. A reminder that even though we are putting this new system in place, don't forget that you can still speak to us face to face. As I always say at the Reception Parents Induction Evening, don't get involved in gate gossip! If you want to know anything about **YOUR** child, just talk to us. We are always more than happy to settle any anxieties and ease any worries! We really are a friendly bunch and do not bite! Sometimes a quick conversation sorts out any worries much faster than an email!

And finally...

I am off to Scotland tomorrow to take my son back to University - sob sob! I think I will need plenty of warm layers because the weather looks like we are in for some frosty, icy spells. Wrap up warm and have a great weekend everyone!

Keeping children safe!



At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one topic of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, tips and top for adults.

It can be challenging for parents and carers to know whether children are spending too much time on their devices. Furthermore, it's even more of a challenge to know whether a child is addicted to the internet and social media. As technology is becoming more pervasive, children and young people are experiencing tech-related dependencies. Do we as parents and carers have the knowledge to identify and support children and young people who may be developing an addiction to their devices?

47% of parents said they thought their children spent too much time in front of screens

What parents need to know about SCREEN ADDICTION

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Children as young as 13 are attending 'smartphone rehab' following growing concerns over screen time. There are now help centres in the UK which deal with screen addiction for children and young people. The seriousness of device addiction. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has officially recognised gaming addiction as a modern disease. The condition was classified as an addiction in the 11th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) which serves as an international standard for diagnosing and treating health conditions.

LOSS OF INTEREST IN OTHER THINGS

Your child may become less interested in anything that does not include their device. You may notice that your child is missing school time and generally being less engaged with other activities in the home. It is important to discuss this with your child so you can notice a behaviour change.

CONFIDENCE, SUPPORT & ADVICE

The Children's Commissioner reports 1.1% in Lincast reported how children spend 1.1% of their time using their devices to speak to their online friends about their problems and seek acceptance and support, removing face to face interactions.

LACK OF SLEEP

7 out of 10 children said they had missed out on sleep because of their online habits and 60% said they had neglected school work as a result. It is important that children get the sleep they need in order to focus the next day.

APPS CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Apps have been designed with psychological tricks to constantly keep grabbing your attention. One example of this is on the app Snapchat, where you can 'streak' when interacting with your friends. If you don't respond, you lose the streak. This addictive nature of apps aims to engage children and keep them coming back for more.

Top Tips for Parents

LIMIT SCREEN TIME

In today's digital age, technology is an important part of a child's development so completely banning them from their devices will mean they are missing out on a lot of educational opportunities and social connections. Instead, rather than banning them from using their devices, try encouraging a screen-free time. Think about what you think is a suitable and healthy amount of time for your child to be on their devices per week. Remember that your child may need to use devices for their school homework so you need to set screen limits on recreational time on their device. Once you have established this, have the conversation with them to discuss why you are implementing a screen-free time. There are also other ways your child's friendship group who will not have screen limits set and will be sending messages when they do not have access to their phones.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children model their behavior on their peers, so if their parents are constantly on their device, they will see this as acceptable. To limit your own screen time, lead by example. If you are using your device at the table, make sure you don't try eating, house rules that this whole family abide by.

REMOVE DEVICES FROM THEIR BEDROOM

Setting a rule about removing devices from bedrooms will help your child to get the sleep they need and be more focused the next day at school. 20% of teenagers said that they would be checking their social media accounts on their devices. Even by having a device switched off in their bedroom, they may be tempted to check for notifications.

ENCOURAGE ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES

It may seem like an obvious solution, but encouraging children to play with their friends, read a book or playing outdoors will help them realise there are things to do without their device. Playing football, basketball, camping, going to a park or swimming are all healthy alternatives for screen time. Try to join them in their outdoor activities to show your support.

LESS TIME MEANS LESS EXPOSURE

There are many risks associated with devices, such as cyberbullying, grooming, sexting, viewing inappropriate content etc. Less time spent on a screen means that a child will be less exposed to these risks.

STATISTICS

- 52% of children aged 3-4 go online for nearly 9hrs a week
- 82% of children aged 5-7 go online for nearly 9.5hrs a week
- 93% of children aged 8-11 go online for nearly 13.5hrs a week
- 99% of children aged 12-15 go online for nearly 20.5hrs a week

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @nationalonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

Technology

We have had a lot of tired children this week and when asked, they have commented that they are up late on new technology. While technology offers countless educational and social benefits, there are also downsides to our widespread, easy access to these devices – including the impact technology may be having on sleep. Given the importance of sleep for a child's mental and physical health, ensuring that children are consistently getting enough sleep at night is critical. If you are concerned about the impact technology may be having on your child's sleep, there are a number of steps you and your child can take. Start by trying the following interventions:

- Set a technology curfew: Establish a nightly schedule that involves stopping the use of electronics one hour before bedtime. You can use an alarm to help a child remember to turn off screens at a certain time. It might help to plan other calming activities before bed, such as reading, puzzles, colouring, painting, or stretching. Parents should also lead by example and limit the use of screens prior to bedtime.
- Create technology-free zones: Storing phones and other devices outside of the bedroom may be a difficult transition for some kids, but it can have a big impact on night time blue light exposure. It reduces the temptation to use devices before going to sleep and eliminates the possibility of being woken up by texts, calls, and other alerts.
- Ensure daytime light exposure: Getting exposed to bright light during the day helps to synchronize our body clock and promotes sleepiness at bedtime. Make sure your child gets plenty of bright, natural daytime light.

It can be a struggle to navigate setting rules and boundaries around screen use. Talk with your child frequently about the role of sleep in their physical and emotional health and the harmful effects blue light may have on sleep. It might help to work together on establishing rules for technology use. Parents and guardians can also model healthy sleep habits, including following a technology curfew and storing electronics outside the bedroom.

Attendance



	Attendance %	Late Marks
• RMT	91.52	11

- REB 92.67 9
- 1CBL 91.67 6
- 1BW 98.30 9
- 2KG 95.19 16
- 2FS 97.22 16
- 3HB 99.55 13
- 3LC 89.29 14
- 4TC 92.67 12
- 4CL 98.33 11
- 5TT 98.39 21
- 5JB 93.53 10
- 6VA 92.50 15
- 6NO 92.86 19
- 6MB 98.68 7

Nursery



This week the children have enjoyed learning all about winter. The story we have been reading is One Snowy Night, we have discussed the clothing we need to wear to keep warm in winter and the children have sorted items of clothes into winter and summer columns, we have then worked hard on hearing saying the initial sounds for each item.

We have also enjoyed learning about different 2D shapes using our special shape box and have played a game of shape pairs. The shapes we have learnt about are a circle, square, triangle and rectangle.

Reminder- Please bring a bag with spare clothes in for your child. This should include trousers/skirt/leggings, underwear, socks and a top.

Reception



What a wonderful week back in Reception!

We have found that all of the children have come back to School so settled and ready for learning- it was so lovely to see all of their excited, happy faces racing back to school on Monday morning!

This week we have focused on the story Here We Are by Oliver Jeffers. We have thought all about the animals which live on land and those that live in water and the differences we can see between them. During our Literacy task we were asked to think about animals which live on Earth and where they live. The children have absolutely wowed us with their writing this week, the sentences they have created and the effort they have put into their writing has been fantastic!

We look forward to next week when we look at the story of Emma Jane's Aeroplane whilst thinking about places around the World.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend.

The Reception Team

Year 1



Hello and Happy New Year from the Year 1 Team.

We hope you had a restful break and ready for 2024! We couldn't wait to get back and into our regular routines at school.

This week, we have been continuing to get confident with the number 20, counting up to 20 from 0 and using lots of resources to help us count such as counters, bead strings, tens frames and even little animals! (Don't worry, no plastic animals were harmed!) In science, we have started to look at different types of animals such as Mammals and using **MR FAB** to help us remember them. (**M**ammals, **R**eptiles, **F**ish, **A**mphibians, **B**irds) We have looked at a range of different mammals, perhaps test your child and see if they can tell you the features of a mammal!

We have been reading all about Pinocchio this week in English, and writing sentences all about him! The children have enjoyed the wooden puppet in class and getting to play with him, which has helped them to describe the puppet. Ask your child what adjectives they used to describe Pinocchio.

During History this term, we will be looking at *Seaside Holidays: Past and Present* and discovering how Blackpool was in the past. We take living in Blackpool for granted, but have you been to the seaside recently? I know I haven't been to Blackpool sea fronts for a long time!

Reminders

- To read with your child **3 times a week** and log this onto the Boom Reader App. This is so important in every year group, but especially year 1 as children have their *Phonics Screening Check* coming up later this year.
- Books will be changed by your child's phonics teacher every Friday, so please return them to be changed.
- A reminder from PE staff that **ALL** earrings must be removed, or plasters applied to cover piercings before school. Otherwise they will not take part in PE due to safety.

Changes to PE for 1CBL

PE in 1CBL will now be on Monday and Friday. Please ensure your child arrives in their PE kit on this day. There are **no changes** to 1BW PE days which will continue to be on Wednesday and Friday.

Mr. Wainwright, Miss. Blunden and The Year 1 Team.

Year 2



Happy New Year from the Year 2 Team.

We hope you have all had a wonderful restful break and ready for 2024! We were so excited to welcome you all back and couldn't wait to get back and into our regular routines at school.

This week in Year 2 we have welcomed Miss Macarty and Miss Ing who has joined us from the Year 1 team. We have been working so hard on our new topic in Maths where we have begun to look at Money. We have learnt all about the different types of coins and notes that we can use. Please ask us about this at home and you could even let us pay for something in the shop! If you do this please can you send the picture to us as this is one of our enrichment activities.

In English we have started to read our new story which is called 'The Pirates of Scurvy Sands'. We have used dictionaries to find out the meanings of new words we were unsure of such as dawn and pesky. We have also began to plan writing our own letter as if we are Matilda who goes on an exciting adventure to Scurvy Sands where she discovers treasure.

In Music this week we blew away Miss Gleadell and Miss Helsby away when we performed our new song even including our own actions!

In Art this afternoon we have been looking at relief printing and the artist Katrine Lyck. We have discussed what we like and dislike about her prints. Over the next few weeks we will be exploring different relief printing techniques to create our own print of a ship.

Have a lovely weekend and we will see you on Monday, Year 2 Team

Year 3



What a busy, but productive first week back in Year 3!

This week, we have continued looking at our Multiplication and Division focusing on our 4 and 8 times tables. We are getting really good at recalling our times table knowledge but please test us at home.

In English, we have been looking at the book 'Mrs Armitage on Wheels'. We really enjoyed this silly story and even designed our very own high-tech, item-filled bikes with objects like; musical pedals, a mini fridge, a coat hanger and even a robot arm! We are continuing writing about this story next week and looking at inverted commas.

In History, we began our topic of Trains by looking at a timeline of locomotives through the ages. We looked all the way back to the mid 1500s when only person-pulled wagons were available, all the way up to the Japanese bullet train and the Eurostar.

In Geography, we have started looking at our new country-India. We found out the continent, capital city, currency, bordering countries, population and much more!

Year 4



What a fantastic first week back we have had! It has been lovely to be back with you all and hearing all about your Christmases!

We have been starting all of our new and exciting topics. We are looking at Blackpool's history and what tourism was like in Blackpool a long, long time ago. We are super excited to be investigating and exploring this topic!

In English we are looking at our very own Blackpool author, Dan Worsley. In particular his 'Impossible Tales' book. We are lucky enough to be expecting a visit from Dan soon which is super exciting.

In Maths we have moved on to multiplication and division. This is a tricky topic so please try to practice your times tables as much as you can at home to support our learning.

We have also started our forest school sessions this week! We have absolutely loved it, despite the freezing cold! We can't wait to carry on with these sessions run by Mrs Bateman.

Year 5



Welcome back! It has been lovely to see everyone this week and all ready for another half term of exciting work!

This week, we have started to look at our new book in English 'The Good Turn'. We looked at the cover and read the blurb making predictions about what we think it is about and writing any questions they have about the book. We then read the first 2 chapters and summarised them before making predictions about the next chapter just from its title. We have had a very SPaG focused week, revisiting apostrophes and adverbs before moving on to learn about modal verbs.

In Maths, we have continued our fractions topic. The children really impressed us this week with how much they remembered from before the Christmas break and used this in their

new learning. Next week, we should hopefully come to the end of our fractions topic and move on to multiplication and division.

In Computing, we started our new programming topic where we are using crumbles. A Crumble is a very low-cost electronics controller that connects to a computer using a USB cable. You can attach components like LEDs, buttons, and motors to the Crumble using crocodile leads, and you can program your Crumble using free software.

Have a lovely weekend, The Year 5 Team

Year 6



Year 6 have had a fantastic return to school this week!

We begun our week by exploring our new English novel: *Rooftoppers* by Katherine Rundell. We made some excellent predictions about our new book and I think we are all very excited to read it! This is Miss Ayers' favourite year 6 novel so I know she can't wait to get started reading.

The children also experienced a different approach to teaching English this week: Talk for Writing. We used pictures and actions to create a newspaper report to help us plan our own later in the week. Yesterday, we used our Chromebooks to create our own story map plan for a Newspaper article about a shipwreck in the English Channel. The children loved this different approach to learning this week!

Next week, the children will be taking part in their second Mock SATs practice this year. Please remind your children that this is nothing to worry about and is an opportunity to prepare the students for how the timeline of events will run on the actual week in May. From experience, we believe this helps settle any worries children may have about the

upcoming exams in May. As always, the revision guides we provided your children with at the beginning of the year are a fantastic tool, should they wish to do some revision over the weekend and next week.

As a reminder:

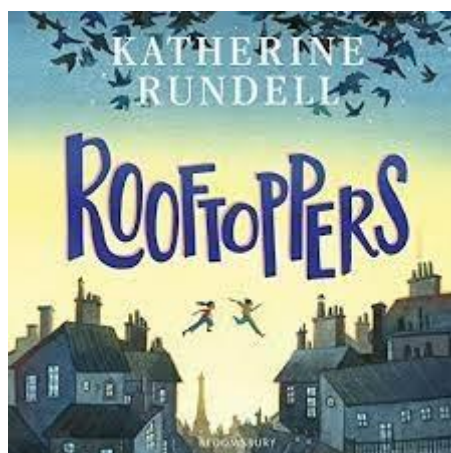
- Children should be reading and signing their Boom Reader reading diaries at least 3 times per week.
- Reflection logs will be handed out on a Friday and due on a Wednesday
- P.E days are on a Tuesday and Thursday
- For children in choir, this is every Tuesday until 4pm with Mr Weaver
- For children in dance club, this is every Tuesday with a new time finishing, from 4:30pm with Mrs Obertelli and Mr Wainwright

Finally, thank you to everyone who brought in gifts for staff for Christmas, this was very thoughtful, generous and really appreciated. Have a wonderful weekend, The Year 6 Team

THE DROWN OF THE QUEEN MARY

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🩸, but 1 🧒 lived. The 🧒 got 🌊
up to FR.



Star of the Week



RMT - Adam - For growing in confidence during his time in Reception and always bringing a smile to everyone in his class!

REB - Chester - For always trying his best and being a good friend.

1CBL - Joshua - for being so engaged in lessons.

1BW - Agatha - for always trying her best in every lesson!

2KG - Oliver - For having a fantastic attitude towards his learning and always trying his best!

2AM - Joe - For being a respectful and helpful member of our class! Well done Joe!

3HB - Charlie-Jack - For his enthusiasm and resilience towards learning.

3LC - Phoebe - Her resilience and positive attitude to learning.

4TC - Methindu - For always being positive, on task and doing the right thing.

4CL - Logan - For being such a superstar since joining our school, always being so kind and trying his best.

5TT - Humaira - Effort and resilience learning fractions.

5JB - Logan - For his growing confidence in Maths adding and subtracting fractions.

6NO - Eve - For returning to school with a fantastic focus in all her lessons.

6VA - Riley - Trying really hard in lessons this week, approaching everything with enthusiasm.

6MB - Maddison - Maturing attitude to her work and contribution to class activities and discussion.

Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)






Join Our Parental Drop-In Sessions

We hope this message finds you well. At Unity, we understand that caring for your child's social, emotional, and mental health is of utmost importance to you. That's why we are excited to announce our new Parental Drop-In Sessions!




What are Parental Drop-In Sessions?

Our Parental Drop-In Sessions are a safe and welcoming space for parents and guardians to come and share any worries or questions you may have regarding your child's social, emotional, and mental well-being.

When and Where?

 Mondays and Fridays  8:30 AM - 9:00 AM  Unity Community Hub (Based in the Nursery entrance)

Why Should You Attend?

-  **Get Expert Guidance:** Our experienced educators will be on hand to provide guidance and support tailored to your specific concerns.
-  **Share and Connect:** Connect with other parents and guardians who may be facing similar challenges. Sometimes, knowing you're not alone can make a big difference.
-  **Early Intervention:** Addressing concerns early can be key to helping your child thrive socially and emotionally. These sessions provide an opportunity to identify and address issues before they become bigger problems.

How to Join?

No need to sign up in advance! Just drop by on Mondays or Fridays between 8:30 AM and 9:00 AM. Our friendly staff will be there to welcome you and provide any assistance you may need.

Your child's well-being is our top priority, and we're here to support you every step of the way. Feel free to bring any questions or worries you may have, and together, we'll work towards helping your child grow into their best selves.

We look forward to seeing you at our Parental Drop-In Sessions! If you have any questions or need more information, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

School Uniform



As a reminder, please have a look at the list below and make sure your children are correctly dressed for both the school day and PE. To request items of uniform please click [here](#) and complete the short form. We will do our best to meet your needs, stock permitting.

Nursery Uniform

Black sweatshirt with logo

White polo shirt

Black trousers, tracksuit bottoms or skirt

Black shoes if wearing trousers or skirt or Trainers (preferably black) if wearing tracksuit bottoms.

Primary Uniform

Black sweatshirt/cardigan sweatshirt with logo

White collared shirt

Black trousers/ Unity Tartan Skirt

Tie in house colour

Black socks/plain tights

Black shoes

Primary PE Kit

Red polo shirt with logo

Black shorts

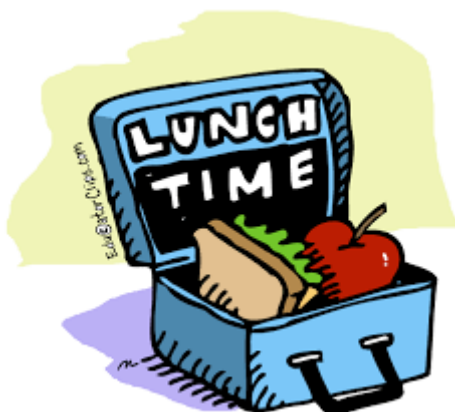
Black socks

Black Pumps

Optional Items - Unity Tracksuit or plain black tracksuit (A Unity tracksuit will be provided for the Reception children)

If your child has outgrown any uniform items and they are in good condition, please do send them into school where they can be added to our supply for other parents to access. Thank you

Lunch time menu for this week



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Macaroni cheese with bread, green beans and carrots	Roast beef dinner with yorkshire pudding and gravy, roast potatoes, carrot and swede	Chicken and ham pie with mash and baked beans	Pork meatballs in tomato and herb sauce with pasta, bread and peas	Crispy coated fishcake with chips, beans and sweetcorn
Veggie chilli non carne with wholegrain rice green beans and carrots	Veggie sausages with yorkshire pudding and gravy, roast potatoes, carrot and swede	Cheese and onion roll with mash and baked beans	Creamy quorn and sweet potato tikka masala with mixed veg, rice naan bread & peas	Pizza with chips, beans and sweetcorn
Jacket potato with cheese	Jacket potato with beans	Jacket potato with tuna mayo	Jacket potato with cheese	Jacket potato with beans
Egg Mayo sandwich	Roast Turkey sandwich	Cheese sandwich	Roast Ham sandwich	Tuna mayo sandwich