



Unity Academy Primary Newsletter
19/01/2024

Your weekly roundup of all things years N-6!



A message from Mrs. Shaw

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Another busy week at Unity this week!

Teaching and Learning

Y3 impressed me this week with their attitude towards their Maths work. They were doing some multiplication work and were really keen to challenge themselves. They were very keen to share their work with me and explain what they were doing. I always think if they can explain it correctly, then it is embedded learning! Y4 were superstars this week when I visited them. I popped into Miss Lee's class and stayed for quite a while as she taught them all about speech marks. The children were just incredible and I really must comment on the lovely relationship between the staff and the children in the room - SO supportive! Mr Brimley was keen to tell me about his visits to Reception and talked about how focused the children whilst using the classroom provision. He was particularly impressed with Miss Tench's class who were trying hard to share their opinions with each other and more importantly, recognising that these may differ and that's ok! Year 5 have been discussing jobs and salaries in PSHE. They were surprised to find that the average salary in the UK for a footballer was not as high as they thought it would be. In fact, you earn more being a pilot. I spoke to them about the current pilot apprenticeship offer from TUI and that amongst a few

other requirements, you only needed a 6 in English and Maths which is totally achievable and that with a little hard work, they can be anything they want to be!

Dream it, work hard, be it! I totally believe in every single Unity child!

Parent's Evening

On Monday 5th February, it is the Primary Parents Evening. The following link was sent out via text earlier this week for you to book an appointment with your child's class teacher. Up to now we have had over 190 responses which is great! Please complete this form once for ALL your children in Primary.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSea7T5czVqyAFLZ-mrEYPIvC42bP54MsXHc-wx2aoLcFRJ9LQ/viewform?usp=sharing>

Year 6

I couldn't not mention our fabulous Year 6 cohort who, this week, completed their Y6 mock SAT's. They were so resilient and took the opportunity to really show how amazing they are. I am so proud of every single one of them! Thanks also to our wonderful Year 6 team who are working so hard at ensuring our children are well prepared and well supported!

And finally...

The weather looks much nicer this weekend than last weekend so enjoy whatever you are doing! It seems I am picking up a prom dress with Evie :-O

Keeping children safe!



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trained adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children. Should they feel that needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe raised adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, facts and advice for you.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'leaky but harmful' content, lives are being impacted - sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content, which so entrains young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellbeing, recognising when something isn't OK - and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

- 1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM**
Algorithms rank content by user interest, relevance and how many times the content has been viewed. They will feed it based on what they think you'll like. If a platform shows content that can cause harm, there's a risk that the algorithm will keep showing it to you. Parents can help by suggesting to their child that they take a break from social media and look for new hobbies and interests to try. This can help them to feel more in control of their online experience.
- 2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS**
Avoiding the default feeds on social media platforms like the 'story' stream, users can opt to only see content from people they know and use restricted modes, or hide posts that they don't want to see. Parents can help by suggesting to their child that they take a break from social media and look for new hobbies and interests to try. This can help them to feel more in control of their online experience.
- 3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN**
Chatting about what your child's seen online helps you create a safe space for them to talk about what they're seeing. Some platforms are screening out harmful content, but some are not. Parents can help by suggesting to their child that they take a break from social media and look for new hobbies and interests to try. This can help them to feel more in control of their online experience.
- 4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT**
If your child stumbles across something that's upsetting or harmful, there's a chance they can report it. Parents can help by suggesting to their child that they take a break from social media and look for new hobbies and interests to try. This can help them to feel more in control of their online experience.
- 5. SET DAILY LIMITS**
Phones and most apps can tell you how much time you've spent on them. Parents can help by suggesting to their child that they take a break from social media and look for new hobbies and interests to try. This can help them to feel more in control of their online experience.
- 6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY**
Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help them to feel more in control of their online experience. Parents can help by suggesting to their child that they take a break from social media and look for new hobbies and interests to try. This can help them to feel more in control of their online experience.
- 7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS**
Even for adults, it's tempting to check in small increments on social media. Parents can help by suggesting to their child that they take a break from social media and look for new hobbies and interests to try. This can help them to feel more in control of their online experience.
- 8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER**
Giving children internet-enabled devices and complete freedom to explore platforms on their own can be risky. Parents can help by suggesting to their child that they take a break from social media and look for new hobbies and interests to try. This can help them to feel more in control of their online experience.
- 9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES**
Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of exercise, balanced diet and mental time for our wellbeing. Parents can help by suggesting to their child that they take a break from social media and look for new hobbies and interests to try. This can help them to feel more in control of their online experience.
- 10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE**
Most platforms default children's privacy settings to 'public'. Parents can help by suggesting to their child that they take a break from social media and look for new hobbies and interests to try. This can help them to feel more in control of their online experience.

Meet Our Expert
Roshni Sarkar, Adm. Inclusive headteacher at a specialist primary school, has spent her career working with school leaders to focus on the SEND, mental health and wellbeing aspects of a progressive education. Roshni is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of the book *Wellbeing: a book which supports children with SEND needs*.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

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Attendance



Attendance %

Late Marks

• RMT

85.65

5

• REB	94.40	14
• 1CBL	93.45	9
• 1BW	96.59	4
• 2KG	90.38	15
• 2AM	94.64	16
• 3HB	96.88	15
• 3LC	87.50	13
• 4TC	83.62	19
• 4CL	96.67	15
• 5TT	95.56	11
• 5JB	90.95	14
• 6VA	95.00	11
• 6NO	91.67	14
• 6MB	93.42	4

Nursery



This week we have been reading the story 'Ridiculous.' We have continued to learn about winter and have been learning all about the animals that hibernate in winter. We touched on the topic of hibernation during our autumn topic and the children have remembered what hibernation means. The children have enjoyed exploring ice in the tuff tray and have

discussed different ways in which we can release the objects that have been frozen, they came up with some brilliant ideas. They also loved exploring the snow and talking about how it feels in our hands and what happens when it gets too warm. We also had a snowball fight! The children have continued to learn about 2D shapes and having playing shape bingo. What a busy week!

Reception



In literacy this week, the children have focused on the text 'Emma Jane's Aeroplane'. To support the children's comprehension of the story, we have explored the different countries and cities highlighted in the story. The children have done some fantastic writing based on the question 'Where would you like to go on Earth?' Also, the children have been introduced to non-decodable words (I, to, would, go). In mathematics, the children have revisited the concept of one more and one less within five. The children were really good at jumping forwards and backwards on the number line. In PSHE, the children have further developed their understanding of how to overcome challenges and the importance of not giving up. In our outdoor area, the children have observed changes in the weather. We explored the snow using our senses and discussed what happens in Winter. Overall, it has been a fantastic week in Reception and all of the EYFS Team are so proud of you all! Next week the children will focus on the story 'All afloat on Noah's boat'.

Polite reminders:

- Thursday is PE day.
- Library books and reading records need to be brought in every Friday. Reading books are changed every Friday. Read the RWI book at least three times a week.
- Please ensure your child brings a coat to school and write your child's name in all items of clothing.
- If you **do not** want your child to take part in the eye screening, please return the slip to your child's class teacher.

Ideas to support your child at home:

- Read a story with your child and ask questions to support comprehension.
- Junk modelling.
- Take your child to the park.

Year 1



This week in English, we have been focusing on the story 'The elves and the shoemaker'. The children have been making elf hats and then writing instructions on how to make them. This is the first instruction piece of writing we have completed in Year 1 and the children were fantastic at it !

In Art, we have been practising our sketching skills ready for drawing our self portraits later this term. The children have used their sketchbooks to practise drawing different types of lines, different grades of pencil and how to create darker or lighter lines.

In History, we have been continuing to look at seaside holidays now and in the past and discussed how people dress at the seaside. They then designed their own holiday clothes.



Year 2



We have had a very exciting week this week in Year 2.

In English this week we have continued with our book 'The Pirates of Scurvy Sands' where we have written up our final letters telling our mum/dad how exciting our trip was to Scurvy Sands.

In Maths we have come to the end of our money topic and next week we will be moving on to multiplication and division. We will send home passwords for TT Rockstars so the children can practice their multiplication and division.

During Computing we have used a software on the I pads to explore rhythm. The children created patterns and used those patterns as rhythms. They used untuned percussion instruments on the iPad to hear the different rhythm patterns that they created.

In Art this week, we have been making our own relief prints. Children have learned about three different ways to print: potato, incised and additive. They have used these printing techniques to create their own prints of simple shapes.

Please remember that your child brings home a phonics book **every Friday** to read at home **at least 3 times a week**. This is a book that the children have done with their phonics teacher in school that week.

Year 3



Another busy week in Year 3!

This week, we have come to the end of our first Multiplication and Division unit. We have all worked so hard at learning our new times tables (3,4 and 8). Please continue to test us at

home. We practised some missing number questions, some word problems and completed our end of unit quiz with some great results! Well done!

In English, we finished our story Mrs. Armitage on Wheels. We have had a big focus on inverted commas for speech this week and have worked so hard to create the perfect 'speech sandwich'! We have moved onto our new book - Journey. We found it a very exciting and unique story as it has no words!

Foundation subjects - In History, we looked at the various train lines across the UK. We worked out routes from Blackpool to various parts of the country and discussed how train lines have changed over time. In Geography, we continued with our topic of India - we looked at the climate zones and seasons of India. We saw what a monsoon is and how it can be very beneficial to areas of India. In Computing, we have continued with our Scratch coding - making our sprite move, speak and make noise. We are getting very good at coding!

Please continue to read 3 times a week and log the information on Boomhub - if you need another Boomhub login please ask.

Please ensure P.E. kits are in school - P.E. days are Monday and Wednesday.

Have a fantastic weekend!



Year 4 have had a fantastic week this week! On Monday we had some strange things happen in our playground... there were FOOTPRINTS coming from a very peculiar looking circle. We created our own wanted posters to warn the rest of the school that there was a creature on the loose! Year 4 have wowed us this week with their fantastic English work, I am so impressed with everyone.

In Maths we have been looking at our multiplication and division topic. It is really tricky but we are showing real resilience to overcome the challenges. Please try your best to practice at home as it will really support the children in class.

In History we have begun looking at Blackpool and it's past. We crossed this over with Art this week and started our mixed media piece using digital pictures of Blackpool. We were so shocked to see how little some buildings had changed from how we know it now!

Next week we are lucky enough to be expecting a visit from Dan Worsley! We can't wait to ask him lots of questions on how to be an author and what made him want to do it. What an inspiring opportunity for the children!

We are looking forward for another superb week next week. Have a lovely weekend and we will see you all bright and early on Monday!

Miss Lee and Mr Cooper

Year 5



What another fantastic week in Year 5.

We have continued reading our book 'The Good Turn' in English. This week we have taken some inspiration from the book and searched the internet for our famous namesake. The

children loved seeing all the famous people with the same name as them and learning more about them.

In DT, we designed our own frame structure. We researched Tudor houses and designed our own frame for our own Tudor home, the children found it difficult to think about how a house would look with no roof or walls.

In Computing, we have continued to use our Crumbles and add motors. The children have really enjoyed working with the Crumbles and exploring the different ways it can be used.

In PSHE, we have been thinking about our dreams and goals for the future. This week we had to try and match an average salary to a job, the children were shocked to see how much some jobs earn and how other jobs we see as important are not paid enough.

Reminders

- Turton Towers - Wednesday 31st January
- Reading - expectation is 3 times a week and log this on Boom Reader
- Times Table Rockstars - can be accessed at home, there are weekly competitions.
- Coats - please ensure all children are arriving at school with a suitable coat and labelled with their name.

Have a lovely weekend, The Year 5 Team

Year 6



We are so proud of the fantastic effort everyone has shown in their mock SATs this week. The results will be shared with you at parents evening on Monday 5th February.

In Art we have been busy creating designs for our wallpaper in the style of William Morris and making our collagraphs to use next week when we start printing. We enjoyed our visit to the science labs on Monday to extend our learning about electricity including testing voltage.

In PSHE, we have focused on our Dreams and Goals and broken a challenging goal down into achievable actions. There were some lovely ideas shared, ask your child what their goal was!

Elmer the Elephant Art Trail



Unity are joining the herd as Brian House brings the first sculptural art trail to Blackpool starting in the Easter holidays. We have started to design our Unity elephant and will be painting our elephant next week. This will then join the elephant trail which you will be able to visit between April and June all across Blackpool. As part of this we will be raising money for Brian House over the next few months and to start this off we'll be hosting a Elmer the Elephant themed Cake competition and cake sale on Monday 5th February, please look out for more details regarding this in a letter next week.

Star of the Week



RMT - Mia - For always trying her best in everything she does and writing some absolutely fantastic sentences in Literacy!

REB - Nuvee - For always trying her best in Literacy and always following the Golden Rules.

1CBL - Isaac - For always being a role model to others

1BW - Harvey - For fantastic progress this term already, especially in Maths. Massive well done!

2KG - Melody - For being resilient in her Maths this week and always trying her best!

2AM - Hamidah - For always trying her best and writing some brilliant sentences for her letter in English.

3HB - Anshika - For always being a role model to others

3LC - Oliver - For his excellent and new improved attitude towards his behaviour and learning.

4TC - Erika - Approaching everything with a positive attitude and a sense of humour.

4CL - Anumi - For being ambitious in all aspects of her work. Always trying her best and going above and beyond to impress us all!

5TT - Jake - Excellent effort in DT designing Tudor houses

5JB - Kayte - For having a can do attitude to all her work

6NO - Vincent - For a fantastic attitude towards his Mock SATs this week.

6VA - Cailo - For a fantastic attitude towards his Mock SATs this week.

6MB - Harvey - For a fantastic attitude towards his Mock SATs this week.

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

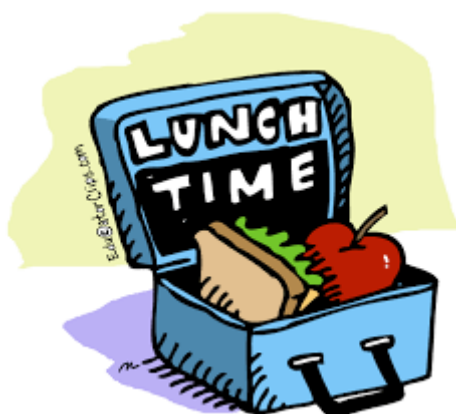
Black socks

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
Pasta bake with crusty bread and mixed vegetables	Roast pork dinner with stuffing, gravy, mash, green beans and carrots	Beef burger in a bun with herby diced potatoes and beans	Chicken curry with naan bread, mixed veg, rice, peas and sweetcorn	Fish fingers with chips, beans or peas
Cottage pie with mixed vegetables	Vegetarian sausage roll with mash, green beans and carrots	Crispy veggie burger in a bun with herby diced potatoes and beans	Mexican tortilla wrap filled with melted cheese, peppers, tomato sauce with peas and sweetcorn	Golden crispy vegetarian nuggets with chips, beans or peas
Jacket potato with beans	Jacket potato with cheese	Jacket potato with Tuna mayo	Jacket potato with cheese	Jacket potato with beans
Cheese sandwich	Egg mayo sandwich	Roast Turkey sandwich	Roast ham sandwich	Tuna mayo sandwich