



Unity Academy Primary Newsletter
23/02/2024

Your weekly roundup of all things years N -6!



A message from Mrs. Shaw

A Message From Mrs. Shaw

Have we really only been back a week? I honestly feel like we should be breaking up soon. I was so ill over the half term holiday with whatever bug is doing the rounds and still feel under the weather now. That said, it was so nice to see our children back in school again on Monday with lots of chatter as they filled their friends in on what they have been up to.

Our School Values

Over the last eighteen months we have been working really hard in school to improve the overall behaviour and culture within our community. As a Staff team, we have been engaging in weekly sessions looking at things we can improve in our daily practice for nearly twelve months now and we have had lots of external people coming in to review things and give us advice. Yesterday, the Department for Education Behaviour Hub team visited school to do a review of behaviour and were overwhelmingly positive about the improvements they could see but the job is not done yet. I cannot express how proud I felt to walk around the primary classrooms and 'show off' our wonderful children. our strong staff team and the relationships between them and talk about what we have all implemented together.

One of the reviews we have taken part in this year suggested we look at simplifying our values for children, to be clear about what we expect. In assembly on Monday, I launched

these new values to the primary children ... **In Unity we are Ready, Respectful and Safe.** These are simple and easy to remember. We will focus on different aspects of these rules each week. For example, it could be that one week we concentrate on 'In Unity we are respectful' and talk to the children about practising saying Good Morning or Good Afternoon to each other and adults around school. You could practise this at home as well! We will keep you updated of what our focus is. You can also ask your children what they have been focussing on!



WE ARE MAKING OUR SCHOOL VALUES EASIER TO UNDERSTAND

Teaching and Learning

I received an email a while ago which invited our Y5/6 students to see the National Youth Orchestra play at the Blackpool Tower Ballroom and it was too good an opportunity to miss! The children went along on Monday and then the orchestra came to Unity on Tuesday. I really hope it is something the children never forget because it's not often they will get to see musicians of that standard play. Our Unity children were, as I expected, a real credit to us. Well done all of you!

Year 5 children were working very hard on their handwriting when I popped in to see them this week. It was beautiful and they were really focused on what they were doing. Mrs Bass was explaining that they have decided to take rubbers away and that it has had a very positive impact because the children don't want to cross any mistakes out in their books and so are more mindful when writing with their spelling. Honestly, the presentation and standard of handwriting was excellent!

Year 4 were mid song when I popped my head in to them this week. Mid song ... in French! Mrs Hutt and the children were all having fun singing in French. I must say, Mrs Hutt's french speaking always amazes me because she is so good at it but what amazes me even more is when she gives commands out and the children follow them as they fully understand what she is asking of them. Very well done Year 4, your speaking, listening and understanding of French is really developing!

Mrs Obertelli's class were working so hard this week that you could hear a pin drop! She had some classical music playing quietly in the background whilst they worked on their Maths. It was such a calm environment to be in, I could have stayed all day!

Nursery were just going outside when I visited them. The team were spending time with the children developing their independence skills and showing them how to put on their own coats and zip them up. The look of satisfaction on one boy's face as he managed it himself and shouted "Yes, I did it!" was so good to see!

Reception have been learning about the three little pigs this week. I loved sharing my alternative versions of the story with them and discussing their favourite. Esme and Chester were playing so nicely together in the construction area. They dressed up in high-vis vests and hard hats and were working together to build a house of bricks. It made me chuckle when I heard the tone of their voices change as they took on different roles. It was really fantastic to hear!

Y1 Phonics parent sessions in Community Hub

If your child is in Year 1, please come along to one of our sessions next week where you can hear all about our phonics teaching in the run up to the Phonics Screening Check. Mrs Hanvey has emailed out a google form so please fill it in to secure your session.

Easter Activities

We are in the process of finalising our Easter plans and will get the diary dates out to you ASAP. A heads up for you... we will be holding an Easter Bonnet and a Decorated Egg competition this year. I figured you would appreciate knowing about these things in advance in case you wanted to start picking up any craft bits whilst you are out an about or start looking for inspiration online! I do enjoy seeing how creative our families are. Remember though, as much as we know you enjoy doing this, we love to see the children's ideas and involvement! :-)

And finally...

Have a good weekend everyone!

[Contact us!](#)



Contact Us

Our year group emails are no longer be monitored. If you wish to contact a teacher within school please use this link [Parental Messages / Queries \(Non-urgent\)](#). and we will get back to you. This form should be used rather than contacting an individual teacher email address as we can then ensure that you are responded to in a timely manner. 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.

Attendance



	Attendance %	Late Marks
• RMT	90.74	8
• REB	94.17	10
• 1CBL	89.77	8
• 1BW	97.16	8
• 2KG	93.27	9
• 2AM	87.04	6
• 3HB	94.40	4
• 3LC	88.79	11

• 4TC	97.92	14
• 4CL	97.92	18
• 5TT	94.14	13
• 5JB	93.75	5
• 6VA	89.38	12
• 6NO	85.71	17
• 6MB	100	2

Keeping children safe!



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to help us inform conversations about online safety with their children, should they feel it's needed. This guide has been created for parent/guardians who are looking for trusted details about the service of Disney+ and encourage you to further explore this website for advice.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISNEY+

The Walt Disney Company's streaming service, Disney+, combines entertainment from the famous animation studios itself with Pixar, Star and National Geographic, plus the Marvel and Star Wars franchises. With access to the latest releases, Disney classics and original series, there's plenty of content to explore. While parents may have noted that adverts have now been introduced on some versions of the service, the platform is – unsurprisingly for a Disney product – designed to be appropriate for the whole family.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LESS SUITABLE CONTENT

While Disney+ is predominantly family friendly, there are some movies and shows in its library which are aimed at older audiences. There may also be adverts (some or content trailers or short clips) that you or other "trusted adults" exposed to. You could avoid such situations by enabling parental controls (see "Adjust content settings" below) or specifying a content rating for your child's profile.

BINGE WATCHING

With the option to view content on any internet-enabled device and a growing catalogue of movies, cartoons and documentaries, Disney+ can make binge-watching screen time difficult. This could result in children binge-watching content, distract them from activities like homework or sleeping. Too much screen time has also been linked to negative impact on mood, sleep patterns and diet.

PHISHING EMAILS

Get especially cautious if you receive emails or text messages purporting to be from Disney+. There have been numerous reports of online scammers impersonating Disney+ to "subscribe" your information to Disney+ services. We never email or call customers asking for their payment details, bank profile information or their password.

ENCROACHING ADVERTS

Disney+ has introduced a new subscription package – Disney+ Standard with Ads – which plays commercials before movies and during shows (see "More TV channels"). There are no adverts in Junior Mode, but content with a content rating of 6+ years will see ads appropriate for that age category. Adults who give consent will see personalised adverts based on their location and viewing history.

ACCESSING ADULTS' PROFILES

If adults don't set a PIN for their profile, children could access it and encounter content which isn't age appropriate in the settings. Kids can also toggle their "Kid-Friendly" lock which prevents the user from creating new profiles, deleting old and enter them to switch profiles. For older children who can read, though, this isn't secure enough – so using a PIN for each profile is recommended.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS

When setting up the account, there's an option to create profiles in what's called Junior Mode. This generally covers material that's suitable for children up to age 6 and is Disney+ family friendly. You can give older children a wider choice of viewing by building a standard profile, then going into the settings and choosing a content rating from one of the pre-set alternatives: 6+, 8+, 12+ or 14+.

ADD PIN PROTECTION

Disney+ enables you to selectively lock profiles behind a four-digit PIN. In particular, some of the shows on the platform's star content hub can be more oriented to adults (including general hard-hitting dramas from US networks), so protecting parents' or older sibling's profiles with a PIN will help to prevent younger children stumbling across material which isn't intended for them.

TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to determine content that your child will enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from the screen and move on to a different activity.

ENJOY AS A FAMILY

When your child watches a movie or show on Disney+ for the first time, you may want to sit with them to ensure it's suitable. You could do the same when introducing them to older films that you haven't seen for years: your perspective of what's appropriate has very probably changed, and some of the language and attitudes in movies from your own childhood may seem quite shocking today.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Buchanan is a leading safety expert, educator and researcher who has delivered numerous presentations and written their safety profiles for schools. She has volunteered for the past several years and supported the National Online Safety campaign in the UK, Ireland and Australia.





#WakeUpWednesday

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Nursery



This week the children have enjoyed the story Supertato. The children have loved the story and have created their own superhero masks, we have also created a wanted poster for the Evil pea and have attempted to write some letters for his name. The children have also drawn pictures of the characters from the story and created their own story props. They have recognised, ordered and matched numerals to quantity and have been looking at repeating patterns and continuing them. We have also discussed what superheroes we have in our community, such as a police officer and a doctor.







Reception



What a fantastic start back in Reception. The children have all come back into school so ready for learning. It was so lovely to see all of their smiling faces on Monday!

This week we have focused on the story of The Three Little Pigs which has started our theme of Traditional Tales. During our Literacy lessons we have been focusing on new pieces of vocabulary which we could see in the story. We looked at words such as, 'clambered', 'escape', 'sturdy' and 'villain'. We then added these to our word wall which we will be using throughout the year to collate new pieces of vocabulary; referring back to these regularly to help children retain numerous pieces of vocabulary. During our writing challenge we created posters to catch the Big Bad Wolf. We were once again blown away by the children's

excitement and engagement towards their writing and the fantastic pieces of writing they are producing. Well done Reception!

In the Creative Area this week we have been very busy! We began our week by creating puppets of The Three Little Pigs which we then used to retell the story in our puppet theatre. It was so fantastic to see the children's depth of knowledge surrounding our story and to see their brilliant imaginations as they used their puppets. During the second half of our week we created portraits of characters from the Three Little Pigs. We used our story book as a stimulus and referred back to this to support our pictures to look realistic. We have definitely got some budding artists!

We are looking forward to next week when we continue our learning of Traditional Tales with a focus on The Gingerbread Man.

We hope you have a lovely weekend, Miss Tench and Miss Bond.

Year 1



Welcome back! We have had a wonderful week in year 1.

In English, we had a delicious time reading Mr. Wolf's Pancakes, as we even got to taste some pancakes, just like Mr. Wolf! The children loved tasting, smelling and of course, eating them and writing lists and instructions.

Math's has been fun, as we continue to build up our confidence counting up to 50! Yes, the big 5-0! Our children have been taking part in counting challenges all week, which have been fun, fun, fun!

In Art, we have come to the end of our self-portraits and made some wonderful Frank Auerbach style portraits using thick, colourful paint - ask your child about their masterpieces! We have started a new topic in Science, investigating all about plants. In Year

1 we need to know the parts of a plant such as flower, stem, leaves and roots. So we are excited to get planting our potatoes and flowers soon! History has been fascinating this week, looking at people who help us. We decided to look closely at nurses and will be looking at Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Edith Cavell over the next few weeks.

Reading - Your child will bring home their new phonics book today. As always please ensure you are reading with your child at least 3 times a week and uploading this to Boomhub so the year 1 team can keep track of their fabulous reading!

Parental Engagement - Next week, we have our Phonics Screening Information sessions. Your child should have been sent home with letter about these drop in sessions earlier this week.

Forest School - 1BW have Forest school starting on Friday 1st March (next Friday) We will send a text nearer the time to remind you. PE kits must be worn as usual on this day. If you have wellies, please bring these (labelled) and in a separate bag in case they get muddy!
1CBL will start on Monday 4th March, PE kits must be worn as usual on this day.

We have lots of exciting things coming up this term, including a history day and world book day!

Year 2



Welcome back!

We have had a fabulous week this week in Year 2!

In Maths we have continued with our multiplication and division topic, we have been practicing our 2, 5 and 10x. We have found this challenging at times but we are showing true resilience and helping one another. We have also had the opportunity to practice these on TT Rockstars, so please continue to do this with us at home.

In English, we have read a very exciting book all about the Queen's knickers going missing. We have been looking at the features of a newspaper article so that we can write our own next week! Miss Gleadell and Miss McCarty brought in newspapers so that we could explore

them in more detail and even spot some of our own features. We are very proud of the work and effort the children have put into English this week.

New phonics books have gone home today, please can we take this opportunity to remind you that the **expectation is to read 3x a week and record this on boomhub**. If you need support with Boomhub please see your child's class teacher.

Our spellings for next week are - Clothes, Money, Christmas

Year 3



What a fantastic week back it's been in Year 3!

We have had a great week finding out about all our new topics for this half term.

In Maths, we have moved onto Statistics looking at different ways to gather data including: tally chars, bar charts and pictograms. We have been working really hard on this topic with much success!

In English, we have been reading the story 'Emma Jane's Aeroplane' in which she visits lots of different and exciting places all over the world and meets some interesting animals! We learnt that the story uses repetition and rhyme. We then began writing our own addition to the story where Emma Jane visits Blackpool! This week, we also learnt the coordinating conjunctions FANBOYS -- test us at home and see if we can remember what each letter stands for.

In History, we have begun our topic of Aeroplanes starting with The Wright Brothers. We found out lots of interesting information about Orville and Wilbur Wright and the first flight. We created our very own fact files about the brothers.

In Geography, we have begun looking at the island country of Samoa. We linked this with our D.T. topic of building traditional Samoan houses (Fale) and even looked at a clip from Moana to see the traditions of Polynesian culture.

Please continue to read 3 times weekly and log this on Boomhub.

Have a fabulous weekend!

Year 4



What a week back we have had Year 4!

It has been lovely to have you all back in the classroom and beginning our new topics!

In History we have begun to look at our topic 'British Heroes'. This week we have focused on Winston Churchill and researching all about him. We have made some fantastic fact files with some super facts!

In Science we are learning all about sound. This week we learnt about what sound is and how we hear. We investigated different vibrations and looked at the cochlea (the snail shaped part of our ear that is covered in hairs, they send signals to our brain). It is all very interesting and we can't wait to carry on learning about it!

In English we have continued with our poetry for this week. Looking at similes, metaphors and creating imagery in our writing. We have been doing a fantastic job!

Please remember that :

- 4TC go swimming on a Wednesday morning.
- 4CL PE slots are on a Wednesday morning and a Friday afternoon.

Year 5



Welcome Back!!

We had lovely start to our week and our half term because on Monday we had the opportunity to attend The Blackpool Tower Ballroom to watch the National Youth Orchestra.

Then on Tuesday, the Orchestra came to us! During the afternoon, some of the Orchestra came to our classroom and played us a Disney medley! The children enjoyed seeing the instruments up close and hearing how they sounded, hopefully this has inspired some of our children to go and learn an instrument.

In Science, we embarked on an investigative journey to determine the best material for plugging a hole in a bucket, the children explored various materials and presented their findings in a table. The children were able to write a prediction and then a conclusion about whether they were wrong or right.

In English, we have started our new class book "Shackleton's Journey." The children wrote down their thoughts of the book from just looking at the front cover and reading the blurb. The children then came up with questions that they want answering as we read more of our book.

Parental Engagement

We would like to invite you in to the Year 5 classrooms after school on Tuesday 19th March for a Times Table Rockstars competition, parents vs. children. Further details to follow.

UCLan Trip

We like to remind you about the upcoming Year 5 UCLan trip. This is now payable through Parent Pay.

- Tuesday 19th March - 5JB
- Thursday 21st March - 5TT

Have a fantastic weekend, The Year 5 Team!





Year 6



What a fabulous first week back! We had a perfect way to ease us into the new half term with an inspiring trip to see the National Youth Orchestra on Monday. Mrs Shaw has already mentioned how well our children represented Unity Academy and how fantastic the experience was; the next day the children came up with many adjectives and/or adjectival phrases to describe their experience at the Blackpool Tower. An added bonus for our Year 6 children on Monday was observing the spectacular Victorian architecture within the Tower Ballroom, designed by architect Frank Matcham who we studied in art and design last half term. Jacobi said he loved looking around and spotting all of the features we discussed in Spring 1 with his own eyes. Our children who attend drumming lessons also got to engage in a special workshop with members of the Orchestra the following day which they spoke very highly of.

We are continuing work on The Victorians this half term as our overarching topic. In Design Technology we are going to be making our very own Victorian inspired moving toys using cams as a mechanism. Watch this space!

Upcoming Dates

4th March - **mock SATs week** begins - please continue to use your revision guides to support your target areas at home

5th March - Year 6 height & weight checks

7th March - World Book Day (please remember to return Blue Peter Book Badge application forms. Thank you to those who have already)

World Book Day



Letters were sent home on Monday regarding World Book Day on **Thursday 7th March**. This year we are immersing the children in a range of Elmer texts by David McKee, following our contribution to [Elmer's Big Parade Blackpool 2024](#). On the day, children will engage in various related activities and are also invited to wear brightly colored clothing.

An **application form** was also attached to Monday's letter for a **Blue Peter Book Badge**; these are really easy to earn and every child will complete the required work in class which includes a short book review and a picture. We can only apply for their badge however with the form we sent home on Monday, so please return these to school as soon as possible and prior to World Book Day. As children do need to be 5 years old to apply for their badge, we will send the entries for reception class off later in the year, once everyone in their class has had their fifth birthday. Badge owners can gain **FREE** entry into over 200 Blue Peter Badge attractions around the country, such as theme parks (including The Pleasure Beach), zoos and castles. [Further information can be found here](#).

Star of the Week



- **RMT - Leo** - For coming back to school with a fantastic attitude and being ready for your learning. We are so proud of you!
- **REB - Antonia** - For being respectful with classroom resources and being a role model.
- **1CBL - Alisha** - For trying her best and doing so well in her new phonics group this week. Well Done!
- **1BW - Fathy** - For always being respectful, using his manners and being polite. A wonderful example to all.
- **2KG - Malachii** - For always being ready to learn and having a positive attitude towards his learning!
- **2AM - Castalia** - For returning to school with a fantastic attitude.
- **3HB - Oliver** - For being ready to learn in our first week back!
- **3LC - James** - For always being respectful, using his manners and being polite. A wonderful example to all.
- **4TC - Charlie** - For fantastic effort and confidence in our first swimming lesson.
- **4CL - Stanley** - For coming back to school with a positive attitude to learning, being resilient and trying his best in all aspects of his work.
- **5TT - Oliver** - Excellent effort in maths, multiplying a three digit number by a two digit number.
- **5JB - Enzo** - For his presentation in Maths and English.

- **6NO - Lucas** - For coming back to school this half term ready to learn!
- **6VA - Mia** - Applying herself well in all lessons and always being super helpful.
- **6MB - Luke** - For his presentation in his work

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

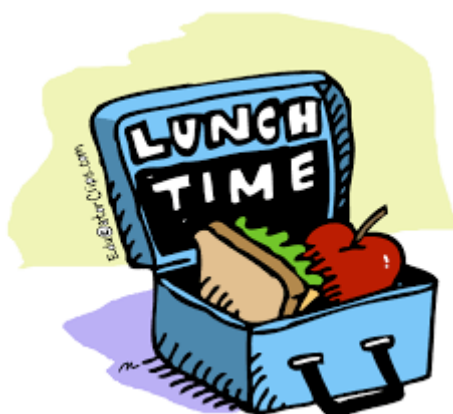
Black Pumps

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