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# Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infant and Nursery School

## Newsletter

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**I hope everyone is well and have enjoyed their week.**

Keep supporting your children through this difficult time and importantly - look after yourself.

### School Communication

As you will have seen from our previous communication from Julian Appleyard (CEO of Pontefract Academies Trust) and myself, we are working hard to prepare our school to reopen for children who attend Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Part of the communication was a survey to complete to state whether your child will be coming back to school. We are working hard in our preparations in ensuring government guidance is applied to ensure the safety of all children and staff coming back to school. I appreciate your support in completing the survey.

### Class Videos

One of the most heart-warming things that I have enjoyed seeing over this period of time are the videos from you all! The videos of children with uplifting messages have meant so much to myself and all the staff. We all thank you from the bottom of our hearts for these videos – they really do lift our spirits!

### Internet Safety

Please can I remind parents to ensure you check what your children are accessing whilst online. With extra time at home, it can be easy for some children to click on something they shouldn't or have something that isn't appropriate appear on their screen. Please support us by reminding the children of how they can stay safe online.

### New Learning Packs

As of this Monday, we have released our latest learning packs. They are more project based and more than just English and Maths worksheets, which I know from speaking to a lot of parents and children that they are enjoying completing these. I know that some parents still prefer to work with their children on Maths and English skills; please can I remind you of the free online sites that provide excellent resources and are easy to use:

- Oak Academy - <https://www.thenational.academy/> - This website provides daily lessons for every subject, which is led by a teacher through a video. Children can work independently whilst following the support and guidance from the teacher.
- BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> - BBC Bitesize offers a range of subjects and activities for children to complete online. To help children, there are support videos to watch. Again, this is pupil led and means adults only need to supervise rather than 'teach' the work provided.
- White Rose Maths Hub - <https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/> - White Rose Maths Hub offer free Maths resources and daily lessons for all areas of maths.

### Contacting School

Please do not feel alone and isolated. If you have any queries or questions please do not hesitate to get in touch. You can get in touch via [admin@halfpenny.patrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@halfpenny.patrust.org.uk) or telephone 01977 703270.

Wishing you all the very best, take care and stay safe

Mr Parkinson

Head of School

## **How to make home learning work for you – tips for success**

We're realistic about what children will be able to do during this period, and we want you to be too. Providing them with some structure at home will help keep positive and support their wellbeing. The following tips are here to help you continue to create a positive learning environment at home. See what works best for your household.

- Create and stick to a routine if you can. For example, eat breakfast at the same time and make sure they're dressed before starting the 'school' day – avoid staying in pyjamas if at all possible.
- Involve your children in setting the timetable where possible. It is a great opportunity for them to manage their own time better and it'll give them ownership.
- Check in with your children and try to keep to the timetable, but be flexible. If a task/activity is going well or they want more time, let it extend where possible.
- If you have more than one child at home, consider combining their timetables. For example, they might exercise and do maths together - see what works for your household.
- Decide on a working space if possible, and at the end of the day have a clear cut-off to signal home learning time is over.
- Stick the timetable up on the wall so everyone knows what they should be doing when, and tick activities off throughout the day to promote a sense of achievement.
- Take stock at the end of each week. What's working and what isn't? Ask your children - involve them too.
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, to separate school life and home life.
- Give your children chores to do so they feel more responsible about the daily routine at home.
- Ask them to help you cook and bake or work in the garden.