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Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter

Friday 18th September 2020

Headteacher Update

Thank you to all the children who have attended this week. There has been a real drive to work hard and this has been demonstrated by all children. It has certainly been pleasing to see.

This week, the children have completed mini quizzes to help us identify the gaps in learning from the school closure. As we analyse this information it will guide us accurately to how we can help the children most effectively going forward.

Early Years Foundation Stage

I would like to warmly welcome all of our EYFS children who have started their new term officially this week. Mrs Brennan and the rest of the team have been so pleased to see all the children settle in so well into their new Reception and Nursery classes. Each time I have visited the provision, the children have been excited to show me what they are learning and even show me the new song and dances they enjoy doing each day. Upper foundation (RB and RBM classes) should have received an email inviting you to a virtual phonics meeting. I would kindly request that all parents attend this meeting so you can learn how to support your child's early reading development at home.

Home Reading Books

You may remember that as lock down was commencing we provided all children with a work pack and school reading books. Please can children who have not already returned them, bring them back into school next week. Each class teacher has a list of books that the pupils borrowed so we can track which pupils still need to return their books.

Attendance

Attendance this week has been concerning. As expected, this week our attendance has dropped considerably from the first week. In the Autumn term, it's quite common for children to pick up a bug along the way- colds for example. After a long period of isolation away from others, maybe this is even more likely as our immunity thresholds are lower. We have had a lot of pupils absent this week but not necessarily Covid-19 symptoms. To ensure we can support your children the best we can we need your child to be in school every day. Please help us by:

- If your child is feeling generally under the weather but not ill – please bring them to school. If they feel worse please feel assured we shall take appropriate action.
- If your child is going to be absent from school, please inform the school by calling our absence line through 01977 703270. Messages passed on from other parents is not acceptable.

Dinner Menus

This week, our catering provider, Chartwells, began serving hot dinner meals again. I have been able to sample some of the dishes myself and I have been pleased with the quality of hot foods we can serve within the classroom setting. After speaking to many children, they have also expressed how nice the meals were. Please see our school website for our latest menu. If you would like to enquire how your child can have school dinners please contact our admin team via admin@halfpenny.patrust.org.uk

Packed Lunches & Snacks

Please can I remind parents that any packed lunches or snacks brought into school do not contain items with nuts of any type. This helps us in assisting the kitchen to be a nut free school.

Home Support

As we begin the start of the new academic year, we appreciate all the help you can provide your children at home. The learning journey of each child can only be successful with partnership between home and school. You can help by:

- Listening to your child read at least 4 times a week. Ask questions about what you have read together, can they retrieve information you have just read?
- Help them with timetables. Try making this a game and challenging them see if they can win or just have fun.
- Ensure they complete their homework or spellings they may have to learn that week.
- Be interested in their learning, discuss what they are doing in school – is there any way you can research further at home what they do in school?

We appreciate all the support you can do at home!



Celebration



In every single lesson, our children wow us! They work so hard and demonstrate the best attitude to their learning. However, some catch the eye of their teachers and have been chosen for the pupil of the week award! Well done to the children chosen this week!

Class	Child of the week!	Class	Child of the week!
RB	The whole class	3P	Mollie M
RBM	The whole class	4A	Ryan V
1CT	Sonny H	4W	Finley S
1W	Phoebe B	5H	Daisy E
2S	Olivia B	5W	George M
2W	Isla W	6D	Ariana L
3G	George L	6W	Troy C

Thank you for your continued support!

Mr James Parkinson – Headteacher