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Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter

Friday 2nd October 2020

Headteacher Update

I have spent a lot of time this week walking around the school and observing the fantastic work taking place. The children have been so enthusiastic, sharing with me what they have been learning. I am proud of all the children who are working so hard and trying their best in these unprecedented times!

Social Distancing

As you have seen this week, the new layout of the queuing system on the playground means that pupils and parents can queue to enter school more socially distant. However, can I ask that when dropping the children off at the door we reduce the discussion with the staff member at the door. With many other parents queuing, we need to make sure our drop off/collection points are as swift as possible. Also, please can I continue to thank parents who follow our one-way system around the school premises. Though it may add an extra couple of minutes to your journey, it makes social distancing more effective. I thank you for your continued support.

Homework

Children will now be given homework to complete. This work will compliment the work that has taken place in Maths/English that week. It may be that teachers provide slightly more homework than prior to lock down, as we are eager to ensure the children catch up from the school closure. I realise that some parents may need additional help or reassurance to support their child to complete this work, if this is the case please do not hesitate in speaking to your child's class teacher, this can be arranged by emailing admin@halfpenny.patrust.org.uk. We are here to help.

Music Curriculum

Music lessons have resumed this week for those children that have them. You should have been contacted with notice of the timetable, please can children remember to bring in their instrument/equipment. Over the coming weeks we will look how these are progressing and we will advertise if any places become available.

I'm pleased to announce that Year 3 will shortly be starting Samba drumming lessons, provided by Wakefield Music Services. They will be learning a variety of musical skills including tempo, beat, dynamics, and rhythm.

School Photographs

Unfortunately, due to the current circumstances, we are not able to hold a school photo day at the present time. We have booked a provisional date in March, at which point we hope to be able to offer both individual and sibling photos as normal.

School Dinners

Yesterday our children were able to enjoy our latest theme dinner which was 'Taste of America'. The feedback from the children has been really positive and they speak highly of all the meals the Kitchen staff provide. If you would like your child to have school dinners, please contact our school admin team or if you would like to view our current menu, it can be found on our school website.

Cold Weather

As I mentioned in last week's newsletter. The Autumn season is now upon us with more wet and colder weather. Please can I recommend that all children come to school with coats and please ensure they have their coat labelled with their name. Children must be provided with a plastic bag to put their coat in, which can then be easily hung up on their cloakroom peg.

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 times tables. Try making this a game and challenging them see if they can win or just have fun.
- Ensure they complete any 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 give 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	Harlan J	3P	Amelia W
RBM	Yuvraj S	4A	Alex P
1CT	Hudson B	4W	Jake H
1W	Max K	5H	Ella S
2S	Oliver LS	5W	Freddie C
2W	Seth H	6D	Jack M
3G	Holly B	6W	Charlie K

Thank you for your continued support!

Mr James Parkinson – Headteacher