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Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter

Friday 6th November 2020

Headteacher Update

It has been a great first week back at school after the half term break. The attendance has been great and the children are coming into school looking smart and ready to learn. As you will know, this week has seen us enter into another national lock down. Although the numbers of people contracting COVID-19 is worrying, I'm glad we can continue to keep school open and maintain the mental health and wellbeing of pupils as well as continuing to catch up from the first lock down period. I'm sure that if we all continue that 'home front' effort and follow Government guidance – it will only be a matter of time before life can return to normal.

Wear Blue – Non-Uniform Day

Before half-term, we held a non-uniform day raising much needed funds for the Prince of Wales Hospice. I'm so glad we were able to raise just under £404 for such a worthy cause! You may see a write up about it in the latest edition of the Pontefract and Castleford Express. Thank you for your support.

Social Distancing

More than ever, we need to ensure that we follow Government guidance and school protocols when on school premises. It is critical that you maintain 2m distance between other parents when entering school grounds. Some parents have asked if they could wear face masks when waiting to drop off or collect their children. Although this isn't mandatory, it is a decision I would support. Can I also ask that when parents/carers are speaking to a member of staff, you maintain a 2m distance. Thank you for your continued support.

Pontefract Civic Society Poppy Display

I am so proud that so many children completed the half term project of creating a bottle bottom poppy. The Pontefract Civic Society came and were amazed by how many children had made a poppy and it has certainly helped us create a focus point which is displayed in town near the Valley gardens.

Hair Styles

Can I remind parents/carers that we do not allow zig zags, brands or patterned shapes shaved into pupil's hair. Thank you for your support by complying with this rule.

Attendance and Absence

During the winter months, it is normal for adults and pupils to catch a cold or feel slightly under the weather. I would ask that we follow the guidance provided by the government and NHS to ensure children who should be in school attend as normal. If your child is going to be absent, please contact school at your earliest convenience.



We ask that your child does not come to school if they display one or more of the following symptoms:

- A persistent dry cough
- A raised prolonged temperature
- Your child loses their sense of taste and smell.

If you or one of your household are symptomatic and is currently waiting for the outcome of a test – your whole household must isolate until there is a negative outcome.

Flu Immunisations

The school nurses will be in school on Thursday 12th November to administer the Flu Immunisations. The consent forms were handed out for parents/carers to complete in September. If your circumstances have changed since your form was completed then please contact the school office.

Home Support

As we continue through the 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	Ava D	3P	Eva R
RBM	Paige S	4A	Ramsey J
1T	Megan J	4W	Nina W
1W	Zeke K	5H	Kain T
2S	Grace G	5W	Olly S
2W	Maxx R	6D	Emme R
3G	Jesse M	6W	Lydia M

Attendance matters! Thank you to all the children who have come to school everyday so far this year!

Class	Attendance %	Class	Attendance %
RB	98.80	4A	97.83
RBM	98.62	4W	95.27
1T	92.94	5H	92.76
1W	95.95	5W	97.24
2S	96.50	6D	94.28
2W	93.06	6W	96.67
3G	97.16	Whole School total	95.56
3P	96.10	Cumulative total	96.67

Thank you for your continued support!

Mr James Parkinson – Head Teacher