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Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter

Friday 22nd January 2021

I hope that this newsletter finds you and your families safe and well. Once again, my sincere thanks must be passed onto you for supporting our online learning sessions, and for those parents/carers that are dropping their children off and picking them up from school in such a safe and diligent manner. I am delighted with the positive comments parents and carers are making about the provision we are currently providing (both in school and online). It is difficult, we all know, but we have been resilient in these challenging times. I will reiterate what I said last week – we will get through this together. Please continue to support the staff in the school to help your children. We cannot afford to let them ‘slip’ in terms of progress behind their peers. We are doing everything, as a school and across the Trust, to do what we can to keep learning moving forward; regardless of the pandemic. All progress is good progress.

Mental Health Week

The awareness and support for adult and pupil wellbeing and mental health has never been more important. Children’s mental health week will occur between 1st and 7th February. The link below will direct you to some excellent resources and activities for children to access with their families. We are ‘flagging’ this week earlier than usual given the fact we are in a lockdown again. We will continue to send you links and resources to support children’s wellbeing and mental health. If you have not seen the 21 active challenges we have placed on the school website, it might be worth looking at as well. I have seen some fantastic DoJo messages and pictures of children completing their selected challenges. Please keep this up. [Children's Mental Health Week 2021](#)



Reading Resources

A good reader equals a good learner! We sent a communication to you all earlier this week about our plans to keep our children reading and developing those essential literacy skills. Please use the links below to find some popular books written by authors the children know and love! Teachers will help you choose books for your children if you need support. The school can also provide reading books if requested. Please ask the children’s classroom teacher to let the school know in advance and we will prepare a reading book pack for you.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>
<https://www.bookspaceforschools.co.uk/lockdown-booklist-resource/>

Prince of Wales Hospice

Pontefract Academies Trust and Halfpenny Lane have chosen The Prince of Wales Hospice as our local charity of the year. We received a lovely message from the charity this morning saying that they “were so proud to be associated with Halfpenny Lane”. We also received a special recognition certificate to thank the staff and pupils for their support and fundraising. We will continue to support this outstanding charity and are looking forward to future fundraising events to support their worthy cause.

Remote Learning Reminder

A huge thankyou to all the parents who continue ensure their children are logging onto the live learning sessions and submitting the work via their class Dojo! I have been really impressed with the increasing number of children accessing this and we are nearly at 100% in some classes – this is great! The more children access the live sessions the less gaps we will need to close on their return – which we all cannot wait for! You can help us by:

- Making sure the device your child uses to attend remotely is fully charged and ready to be used.
- You log your child online 5 minutes before the session starts so they can be completing their holding task whilst the rest of the class join.
- Your camera is switched on so that the teacher can identify who is attending the session.



- Your microphone is muted so that the teacher can communicate with the class clearly.
- All work completed is submitted onto class Dojo for their teacher to mark and direct further learning.

Weekly Challenges

Well done to all of our amazing children this week on continuing to work hard and participate in our weekly challenges / battles. Please see the results below:



Children with the most correct answers over the past 7 days:

1st	Izabella – 4W	2,545
2nd	Sophie – 4W	2,522
3rd	Layla-Mae – 2W	2,209

Battle	Winning Class
2S V 2W	2W
3P V 3G	3P
4A V 4W	4W
5H V 5W	5W
6D V 6W	6W

We know you all love Times Table Rockstars, but I wonder who is the biggest Rockstar of them all? Battles on Times Table Rockstars have begun! The battle will run from Friday evening until Thursday evening.

Reading Challenge:

Well done to all of our children for working incredibly hard on their reading this week. Our reading challenge has been extremely close between the classes this week so continue to try your best and read at least 4 times each week to help your class win. The winning classes this week are: 1W, 2S, 3P, 4A, 5H, 6D.



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!

Year	Child of the week!	
	In School	Live Lessons
Rec	Tommy C	Elinor B
Year 1	Jesse W	Megan J
Year 2	Phoebe A	Jack D
Year 3	Maria W	Willow G
Year 4	Bella SW	Lily B
Year 5	Ellie-Grace G	Zakary WD
Year 6	Ruby W	Jacob B



Come and follow Halfpenny Lane on Twitter!



For those parents/carers who are not yet aware, you can now follow our school and the Trust on Twitter.

Please take a look and see all of the fantastic things that we are doing in school, as well as our other schools across the Trust!

The Halfpenny Lane Twitter feed is: **@halfpennylane**

The Trust Twitter feed is: **@PontefractAT**

Enjoy your weekend and stay safe with your families.

Mr T Fay (Director of Primary Education and Headteacher of Halfpenny Lane)