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Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter

Friday 5th February 2021

Our children continue to work hard both in school and online. It has been great to see so many examples of their work during Mental Health Week. We all understand the impact lockdown is having on everyone's wellbeing, including us in school. I am sure you agree our staff have been fantastic and I am so proud of them for continuing to provide our children with the best possible education we can at this time. Remote learning will never substitute or replace face to face in class lessons, but I know from your feedback that what we are doing, in the main, is working. As you would expect we will continue to tweak and evolve our remote learning offer to suit our children's needs. There will be some exciting resources and sessions to share with you soon to support home learning, wellbeing and skill development.

Children's Mental Health Week

As this week has been Children's Mental Health Week, it has been incredible to see all the different ways in which our children have expressed themselves. Our children at home and in school have fully embraced this week, taking part in our 'Dress to Express' day on Wednesday, where children explored the importance of colour and how colour is often used to reflect different emotions. They have also expressed their emotions and feelings in several different ways throughout the week, from drawing, to baking, to being active and dancing. They have been pro-active in understanding the importance of this week and knowing that it is "okay not to feel okay".

I'm sure you will agree that raising awareness of this week is vital, now more than it ever has been and we will continue to thread this 'wellbeing' theme through our curriculum as we progress into the next term. Thank you for supporting this week with us.



MNDA

Halfpenny Lane received a lovely thank you letter from MNDA this week thanking us for our donation of £471.60. They have asked me to pass on my sincere thanks to all the pupils and families involved in raising this money during our last non-uniform day. We will continue to support this worthy association as our support makes a real difference. If you would like further information on the impact of motor neurone disease on our communities please go to www.mndassociation.org



As you know, Sir Captain Tom Moore passed away this week after becoming unwell. He was an inspirational figure for Britain over the past year and epitomises our resilience and fortitude during this pandemic. By doing his sponsored walk, he raised millions of pounds for our National Health Service and unified our country throughout the first lockdown period. Sir Captain Tom was an example of what can be done if we put our minds to something; a shining light we can all follow. **"The sun will shine on you again and the clouds will go away."**

Thank you for all you have done. Rest in Peace Sir Tom.

Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 9th February

Tuesday 9th February is Safer Internet Day. This year's theme is 'An internet we trust - exploring reliability in the online world'. The internet is an integral part of people's personal, social, academic and mental lives today. It is therefore vital that we understand how we can keep ourselves and others safe online at all times. Reliability is an important aspect to understand about internet data; understanding that not everything you read, hear or see online is true. Children need to know, and be able to recognise, the difference between fact and fiction and how to ascertain whether a source of information is true or not. Throughout this day, children will be exploring this theme in more depth to become more confident using the internet as a source of truth and education.

Parent/Carer Surveys

Thank you to those parents and carers that completed the online surveys we distributed this week about remote learning. I will communicate with you in full next week about your comments, but I must say I am delighted with the overwhelming positivity. I cannot tell you enough the impact your kind words and encouragement provide our staff. We will evaluate all you said and continue to support you in the best possible manner. As always, please get in touch directly with class teachers or the school leadership team if you want to discuss ways we can further support you; or if you need additional help at home. We are always happy to listen and help. Like I have previously said, we will get through this together as a community.

Weather next week

The weather forecast next week is not looking great with lots of snow predicted. If the school cannot open due to inclement weather we will communicate with you at the earliest possible opportunity via Class DoJo, Text, Twitter and our Website.

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	Laya – 2W	7, 342
2nd	Eloise – 2S	6, 578
3rd	Freya – 5W	4, 015



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



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!

Child of the week!		
Year	In School	Live Lessons
Rec	Evie D	Ivy S
Year 1	Isaac J	Cai D
Year 2	Isla W	Ava C
Year 3	Roma H	George D
Year 4	Mia R	Alex T
Year 5	Rachael L	Sophie H
Year 6	Ryan M	Lucy T



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, continue to stay safe with your families.

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