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Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter

Friday 29th January 2021

We're almost four weeks into lockdown now. The staff at school continue to be grateful for the lovely messages and best wishes parents/carers are sending us during these challenging times. I must reiterate a few points to support your home learning schedules and wellbeing, and to provide reassurance to you all about your children's progress. We are here to support you in any way we can. We fully understand that for most of you this will be new, and that you are not trained teachers. The staff at school do not expect you to teach your children at home; that is our job. All we ask is for your support and help in getting them online to the remote sessions and to complete work around your daily routines. If you are struggling please get in touch. We can make other arrangements for you and provide a different type of support if necessary. Our teachers are working extremely hard to make sure they are 'with you' every step of the way during this pandemic. Many have children of their own and they are also trying to balance their own work and home lives; so please support them as they are supporting you. Do not underestimate the power of your kind words to the staff at Halfpenny Lane; it genuinely means a lot to us.

Finally, we will get through this together and children will catch up on any lost learning. Our plans for the full reopening of the school are robust and focused, as you would expect, on bridging knowledge gaps and ensuring progress.

As communicated before we have additional learning and support packages for families that may help you cope with the emotional and wellbeing aspects of being at home. Just contact the school on 01977 703270 if you wish to talk to someone.

Special Award for two of our pupils!

Well done to Daisy and Henry who received special recognition awards recently from Blue Peter for their drawings. Daisy drew a picture of all the presenters as well as the Blue Peter Ship and Henry drew a Remembrance Day Poppy and a picture of the presenters. Big fans of the show, the children were over the moon with their prize and of course we are extremely proud of them. Well done both of you! You are a credit to the school and your families.



Children's Mental Health Week

This coming week is Children's Mental Health Week. I'm sure you will agree that raising awareness of this week is vital now more than it ever has been. Therefore, as part of our support in raising awareness, during children's live lessons teachers will be sharing and discussing the importance of children's mental health and wellbeing, alongside sharing a number of wellbeing activities and links. On the **afternoons of Tuesday 2nd and Thursday 4th February**, we are providing the children with 'Wellbeing' afternoons. These are opportunities for the children to explore different ways and activities that will help their own mental health and wellbeing. Your teachers will be posting possible activities on Class Dojo so keep your eyes peeled!

On **Wednesday 3rd February 2021**, we are going to be holding a 'Dress to Express' day. We are encouraging all of the children, in and out of school, to express themselves through their clothes, hair etc. Children could wear their favourite colour or choose a range of colours that express how they're feeling. Colour can be very personal and mean different things to different people, so this is a great opportunity to encourage self-expression and celebrate a diverse range of emotions. Our teachers will explore with the children what they have chosen to wear and why; discussing why we use colour to help make sense of how we're feeling, who we are and the world we live in.



Online Learning Week Commencing 1st February

The weekly timetable packs, with resources for learning activities, will be provided to you in the following manner:

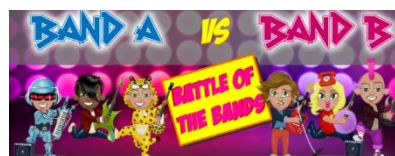
- Class DoJo
- School Website

The links to the live learning lessons with class teachers have remained the same. You can use the same links previously provided to you via email or Class DoJo. Please contact the school or the class teacher directly if you have any issues.

Live lessons continue to be accessed via 'single click links' or 'tinyurls' that can be typed into your browser search bar. If you are experiencing difficulties accessing live learning through your IT device, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school. Paper packs will be available as usual for collection from reception.

Weekly Challenges

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



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

1st	Eloise – 2S	5,197
2nd	Jessica – 6D	4,094
3rd	Luke – 6W	4,054

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

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, 3G, 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	Harlan J	Jensen S
Year 1	Alesha H	Abigail L
Year 2	Alana H	Oliver D
Year 3	Oliver D	Lillie C-H
Year 4	Jack G	Jackson A
Year 5	Daisy E	Oscar D
Year 6	Georgia G	Jessica C



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, stay safe with your families.

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