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Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter

Friday 26th February 2021

School Re-opening – light at the end of the tunnel!

Like us, you will have been delighted to hear the Government's announcement regarding the full re-opening of schools on 8th March 2021. This is the moment we have all been waiting for! I am thrilled to finally be able to welcome all our school community back through the school doors. I will be communicating with you next week in detail regarding the procedures for Monday 8th March and beyond. In essence -

- The school is open for ALL our children on 8th March and attendance will be statutory.
- The arrangements for pupil drop off and pick up will revert to those in place during the Autumn term.
- Breakfast provision, for those who previously booked it, will recommence.
- After school clubs will be phased back in over time.
- Robust Covid -19 control measures will be in place throughout the school to mitigate any risk and keep everyone safe.
- It will be expected that all parents/carers support the school during our full re-opening and adhere to the social control measures put in place.
- We will be contacting families with the arrangements for remote learning for those pupils that are required to shield or who are required to isolate at home from 8th March.

As previously said, I will communicate the details regarding all the above over the upcoming school week.

Home Learning Friday 5 March

Please note that there will be no remote/live lessons taught next Friday morning 5th March. This is to allow our staff time to fully prepare for Monday's full re-opening. Children will still be expected to complete work from their resource packs; however, they will not be required to submit any work that day. Instead, can we ask that they bring their resource pack into school with them on Monday to give to their class teacher.

Wakefield Lockdown Heroes Nomination!

One very brave and resilient pupil at Halfpenny Lane has been nominated as a local 'lockdown hero'. Jessica Cottell has appeared in the Wakefield Express due to her kind and helpful nature towards others. Jessica has climbed the equivalent height of Mount Everest in her home to raise funds for a little boy with Neuroblastoma. She has achieved this amazing feat by climbing up and down her stairs! The local community, Jessica's parents and the school are so proud of her. Jessica has helped raise £230,000 and is now helping raise money for Henry the Brave another little boy with the same condition.

What makes the achievement more amazing is that Jessica suffers from obstructive sleep apnoea, so she barely gets a full night's sleep. She has also suffered badly with her tonsils over the past year and a half. This has not hindered or prevented Jessica from reaching her goals and doing so with a smile on her face. In between climbing the equivalent of Mount Everest Jessica has been completing her school work and supporting her younger twin sisters to complete theirs.



Jessica is not only a local lockdown hero but a national lockdown hero in our eyes. She is a role model for others and needs all the praise and recognition she can get for her selflessness and dedication to others in need. There have been a few 'wow' moments for me over the past twelve months in terms of what the young people in Pontefract community have been doing to support others. Jessica's efforts are simply astounding and sit at the very top of those 'wow' feats.

Fairtrade Fortnight: Monday 22nd February – Friday 7th March

Fairtrade Fortnight has begun this week and it has been lovely to see some of the activities that our children have completed and the knowledge they have gained. As this year's Fairtrade Fortnight focuses on 'Climate, Fairtrade and You', our children are able to explore the growing challenges that climate change brings to farmers and workers in the communities Fairtrade works with, as well as the wider impact on our world climate. Next time you are in the supermarket, keep your eyes open for the Fairtrade logo and find out much of our food and drink are Fairtrade.



World Book Day – Thursday 4th March

On Thursday 4th March, it is World Book Day 2021! This is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate books, our favourite authors and how reading can develop our creativity and inspire us to write more. We are really looking forward to seeing what chosen book characters our children dress up as. We have had some fantastic submissions for our writing competition and it is going to be very difficult to choose our winners!

British Science Week: Friday 5th March – Sunday 14th March

British Science Week is run by the British Science Association and is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). It provides a platform to encourage young people to take part in STEM events and activities. As part of British Science Week 2021 at Halfpenny Lane, the children will be celebrating on Thursday 11th March 2021 by having an afternoon of STEM related activities. The theme this year is 'Innovating for the Future' and the children will be researching inventors and inventions that have shaped our lives today before becoming scientists themselves and using our curiosity boxes.

In addition to this, Halfpenny Lane are running a poster competition linked to the theme 'Innovating for the Future'. You could create a new toy, machine or medicine: try to think outside the box. You could go futuristic or even global and think about an innovation that would make the world a better place. The choice is yours!

Your entries must be given to your class teacher by **Monday 22nd March** where the winners will be announced in our celebration assembly on **Friday 26th March**.

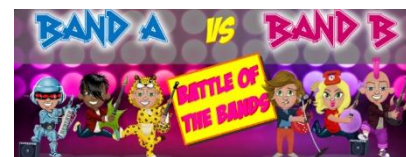
Weekly Challenges

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	4, 182
2nd	Millie – 5W	3, 978
3rd	Krissy – 4W	3, 233



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

We are incredibly impressed with the scores this week on TT Rockstars, especially our Year 2 children. Keeping working hard everyone, as I know you all love Times Table Rockstars, but I wonder who is going to be the biggest Rockstar of them all? Battles on Times Table Rockstars have begun! The battle will run from Friday evening until Thursday evening and will include half-term.

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: 1T, 2W, 3P, 5H. Both Year 4 and Year 6 were tied.



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	Rachel W	Sarlotte S
Year 1	Matthew L	Corban S
Year 2	Lilly H	Frankie-Lou B
Year 3	Jayden B	Harry M
Year 4	Phoenix RW	Izabella C
Year 5	Aaron T	Freya H
Year 6	Grace L	Chloe 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 I look forward to communicating with you all next week about the arrangements for 8th March.

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