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Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter

Friday 26th March 2021

Thank you

I have genuinely loved being the interim headteacher of Halfpenny Lane. Your support, during a national lockdown and beyond, will always be remembered. The children in this school are a credit to you and their community. The new Headteacher, Mrs Hayley McNeill, is so excited to start. She has heard nothing but good things about the school, staff and children. We will be liaising with each other over the holidays to prepare for next term; and I will still be coming to the school to support the senior leaders in their delivery of their summer term plans.

Parents Evening

We have quickly assessed all the children to ascertain their progress since their return to school after the last lockdown, and to identify any gaps in learning that may have occurred. As you can imagine the past three weeks have been fantastic in terms of socialisation, peer interaction and the re-introduction of a full timetable for those that isolated. After Easter we will be working even harder to bring the children back to full speed with their education. With that in mind we have taken the decision, as a Trust, to move parents evening to the week commencing May 24. Further details will be provided to you in due course. By this time, we will be able to provide you with a comprehensive overview of your child's academic and social progress in all subjects. In the meantime, we will be in contact with you if there are any concerns and it goes without saying you can contact your child's class teacher or myself at any time before that date.

Covid cases over the holidays

The school opens again after the Easter holidays on Monday 12 April for all children. Please read carefully the message below. This outlines what to do in the event of a pupil from Halfpenny Lane testing positive for coronavirus over the first or last part of the Easter holidays.

Public Health England has agreed a 6-day window after the final day of teaching (Friday 26 March) in which schools are asked to remain contactable, so they can assist with contact tracing where necessary. This will allow enough time for positive coronavirus (COVID-19) cases to be identified and confirmed by a test, and for relevant contacts in the education setting to be traced. Beyond 6 days into the holidays school staff will not need to be contacted or play a role in any contact tracing. It is also likely that the need to support the tracing process will reduce dramatically over the course of the 6 days as the majority of cases should be identified earlier in the week.

Steps to take up to 1 April

If a child tests positive email the school on admin@halfpennylane.patrust.org.uk. We need to know the pupil's name, year group, teacher and immediate friendship/sibling group within the school. Follow normal PHE advice in terms of isolation.

Comic Relief

We are happy to announce the final amount of money raised for Comic Relief was £233.30. Thank you so much for all of your contributions, which will be donated to such a fantastic and worthy cause.

'Design your own Easter Egg' Competition

Our 'Design your own Easter Egg' competition has begun! We are encouraging all children, across the whole school, to take part and submit their entries to their teachers on Class Dojo or by sending them through via Twitter, by **3pm on Monday 12th April**. We will announce the winning entries, one per year group, on Friday 16th April.

This is our children's opportunity to be creative, imaginative and have fun in designing their very own Easter egg. All we ask is that there is a clear theme to your egg design, for example: superheroes, an inspirational person, your child's favourite author, book or book character. We are really looking forward to seeing everyone's fantastic entries. Good luck everyone!

Reading - Conrad Burdekin

Key stage 1 and 2 children have enjoyed a fantastic and enthusiastic poetry and storytelling event by Conrad Burdekin this week. All children thoroughly enjoyed this event and it was lovely to see the whole school engaged in such a brilliant event, from one of our very own local authors, which further supported their love and enjoyment of reading.

Cross Country Event

Our children have enjoyed competing in our whole school cross country competition. This is our third event this year and as always, the children have absolutely loved it! It has been brilliant to see their enthusiasm and enjoyment of being outdoors and competing with their peers across their class and year group. Well done to all of the children on another fantastic event!

Science Poster Competition

As part of our whole celebrations for Science week, we held a poster competition which allowed our children to express their scientific and creative minds focused on our theme of 'Innovating for the Future'. We had a lot of fantastic entries and would like to thank all of our children for participating. However, after a tough decision we are pleased to announce the following winners from each phase across school:

EYFS: Harry G (RBM)

KS1: Kamryn H (2S)

LKS2: Lily T (4W)

UKS2: Ellie Grace G (5W)

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	Erin H – 5H	35,235
2nd	Lucas E – 5H	2,117
3rd	Ella S – 5H	14,878

As always we are really impressed with all children's attitude towards learning their timetables, however 5H have yet again, been incredible with our top 3 children across the whole school being from that one class. Well done 5H! Keep working hard everyone and going on to TT Rockstars to practise your timetables as this is an incredibly important skill for all aspects of life. Battles continue to take place over the Easter holidays, so let's see our knowledge, speed and the number of children accessing TT increase.

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 IT, 2W, 3G, 4A, 5H, 6D.



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

Class	Child of the week!	Class	Child of the week!
RB	Jack B	3P	Harry N
RBM	Olivia F	4A	Amanda B
1T	Blake B	4W	Hollie T
1W	Phoebe B	5H	Kain T
2S	Kamryn H	5W	Ruby D
2W	Alana H	6D	Ruby A
3G	Kieran H	6W	Ozzy C

Attendance

Attendance really matters! If a child is not in school then they are missing out on important learning opportunities. Our aim is to have a whole class attendance of above 96%. If your child is ill and unable to attend, please telephone school and leave a message on the absence line (option 1).

Class	Attendance %	Class	Attendance %
RB	95.92	4A	98.94
RBM	100.00	4W	96.21
1T	94.27	5H	92.95
1W	96.83	5W	95.58
2S	97.24	6D	98.67
2W	92.71	6W	98.32
3G	94.00	Whole School total	97.48
3P	98.21	Cumulative total	97.30



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**

Have a safe and happy Easter, take care of each other and I will see you all in the Summer term.

All the best,

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