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Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infant and Nursery School Newsletter

Friday 10th September 2021

Welcome back! We hope you had a fantastic summer and an enjoyable break with your children. We are all looking forward to a very eventful year, full of exciting events and learning opportunities, many of which our families will now be permitted to join us for! The children have got off to a really good start this week and have settled well – we can't wait to see our Reception children next week!

Welcome Penny Wolf

I would like to introduce you to Penny Wolf, our new school mascot as voted by the children: The pupils thought extremely carefully about what they wanted our mascot to be and how the chosen mascot would represent our school. Penny was chosen because:

- Wolves are intelligent
- They always work as a team
- They never leave anyone behind

I'm sure you'll agree the pupils have made an excellent choice, and we look forward to seeing Penny become a large part of life at Halfpenny Lane.



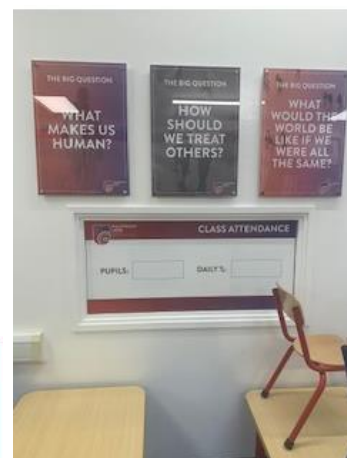
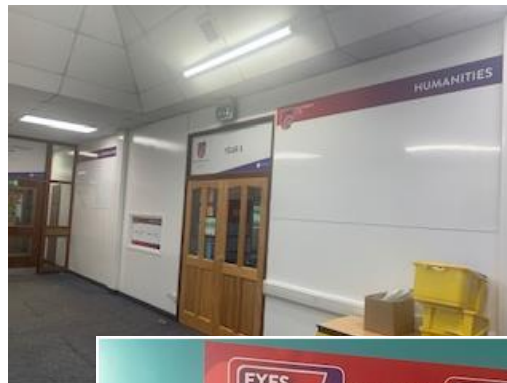
Welcome to the Family

I would like to extend a warm Halfpenny welcome to the new staff who have joined the team this term: Olivia Spears (KS2 Learning Support Assistant), Nichola Metcalfe (Admin. Assistant), Stuart Lill (caretaker) – we hope you have a long, successful and happy future with Halfpenny Lane and Pontefract Academies Trust.

I would also like to wish Clare Cooper the very best of luck as she takes on her new role of Nursery Nurse – I have no doubt she'll continue to be amazing!

School Facelift

I would like to personally welcome back all the HPL staff and take the opportunity to thank them, as well as, staff from across the Trust who have worked so hard during the summer to get school ready for the pupils' return this week. We have been very fortunate to have received a bit of a school facelift by way of decoration and new displays. We hope to be able to share these with you as we welcome parents/carers back into school for various events and we're sure you'll agree that the school is bright, clean and welcoming! Our new displays now just await our pupils' amazing work which we'll want to showcase!



Halfpenny Values

Our staff spent some time last term evaluating our school ethos, aims for the future and the values that are important to use as a school community. We agreed that the most important values that should underpin everything we do at Halfpenny Lane are:



We will be exploring these through our assemblies and class work and will regularly share information through the Newsletter so that you can support our values education at home.

This term we will be focusing on **Courage**:

TALK ABOUT COURAGE TOGETHER...

Being **courageous** can mean different things to different people. For example, one person may think it easy to speak in front of a large audience, whilst another would need to find lots of **courage** to do this. Everyone faces challenges from time to time, and we have to find **courage** to overcome them.

Talk together about:

- The different challenges that each family member faces
- Who or what helps us find **courage**?
- Is there someone that we admire because of the **courage** that they have shown?

THINK TOGETHER ABOUT WORDS OF WISDOM

"**Courage** is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to overcome that fear."

Nelson Mandela

Updated Policies

Please note that the following policies have been updated on our school website: [Policies : Halfpenny Lane \(patrust.org.uk\)](https://www.patrust.org.uk)

Health and Safety; Admissions; SEND; Behaviour for Learning; Attendance and Punctuality

Please contact the office if you require a paper copy of any of our policies. Thank you.

KS2 Residential Visits 2022

A reminder that there will be a London Information Evening at 6:00pm on Tuesday 14th September for our Y5 parents. We hope to provide you with all the relevant information, as well as answer any questions, before then signing up your child for the trip.

In future years, we hope to hold our London trip in September – information for our current Y4 parents will be sent out in due course, alternatively, you are very welcome to attend the meeting on Tuesday.

A similar event for our Y6 parents (for their trip in June 2022) will be held later this term.

Young Voices

Pupils who have 'signed up' for Young Voices should all have received a letter this week, outlining the link for resources, as well as how to purchase a T-shirt. We hope to send information regarding parent/carer ticket purchase next week.

Please don't forget our first practice on Tuesday at 3:20!

After School Clubs

We can't wait for the return of our after-school clubs which will begin week commencing 20th September. Young Voices will commence on Tuesday 14th September as planned, as we have all of the children who wish to take part, already signed up. Year 6 boosters will commence on Thursday 16th September. To give a little taster of what is to come please see below;

Monday – Multi sports

Tuesday – Young Voices, Arts and Crafts, Gardening, Football/Rugby

Wednesday – Dance
Thursday – Year 6 Boosters, Football
Friday – Multi-sports

Further information to follow next week on how to book and what clubs are available to your child.

Fitness Friday

The pupils all looked incredibly smart in their correct P.E uniform this week. Fitness Friday will continue for the foreseeable future, meaning that P.E uniform will not be needed on any other day, unless specifically requested by the class teacher. We hope you will help ensure that our pupils continue to uphold our high expectation around uniform, including P.E uniform, especially as we move into the colder months. Thank you.

Calendar of Events

It gives me great pleasure to be able to attach a 'calendar of events' for this academic year, outlining many of the activities and events we have planned, as well as those that we would love our families to attend. We will endeavour to avoid making any changes to dates and times and should additional events be added, we will aim to provide as much notice as possible.

We will provide additional details about each event in our weekly newsletter, as well as regular reminders of forthcoming events.

Weekly Challenges

We will resume reporting on our weekly challenges from next week!

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 97%. If your child is ill and unable to attend, please telephone school and leave a message on the absence line (option 1).

I attach some useful information below which hopefully will help you in making the decision to send your child to school if they are ill. All our staff know the children very well and can very quickly establish when they are not themselves. Where this relates to illness, we will not hesitate to contact you if we feel your child is not well enough to be at school!

Frequent absence is a serious problem for pupils as often much of the work they miss is not made up, leaving these pupils at a significant disadvantage for the remainder of their school career. There is a clear link between poor school attendance and low levels of achievement. Your help and support is required to address this problem as quickly as possible.

At present the main reason for pupil absence from school within the East Riding is illness. When deciding whether or not your child is too unwell to attend school ask yourself the following questions:

- Is my child well enough to do the activities of the school day?
- Does my child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or school staff?
- Would I take a day off if I had this condition?

Think carefully before keeping your child away from school for medical reasons. If they wake up saying they are unwell, consider whether the symptoms they have mean they need to stay at home. **Do not keep your child away from school 'just in case' when they could be in class learning with their friends.**

If your child requires a medical appointment these should be made outside school hours wherever possible. However, if your child has an appointment during school time you should take an appointment card or letter to the school office so your child's absence can be authorised.

Common conditions

If your child is ill, it is likely to be due to one of a few minor conditions. Whether you choose to send your child to school will depend on how severe you think the illness is. This guidance may assist you.

- **Chicken pox**
Children should be kept at home for 5 days from the onset of the rash.
- **Coughs, colds**
A child with a minor cough or cold may attend school. If the cold is accompanied by a raised temperature, shivers or drowsiness, they should stay at home and you should seek medical advice.

- **Earache**
Medical advice should be sought.
- **Headache**
A child with a headache does not normally need to be absent from school. If the headache is more severe and accompanied by other symptoms, you should seek medical advice.
- **Rashes**
Rashes can be the first sign of many infectious diseases. If your child has a rash, check with a pharmacist, practice nurse or GP before sending them to school.
- **Toothache**
School attendance should be maintained until your child can be seen by a dentist.
- **Vomiting and/or diarrhoea**
Children with these symptoms should be kept at home for 24 hours after their symptoms have gone. If symptoms persist or reoccur medical advice should be sought (this may differ to other schools; please check your individual school).

There is no reason for your child to be absent from school for minor ailments such as:

- Athlete's Foot
- Cold Sores
- Conjunctivitis
- Hand, Foot & Mouth
- Head Lice
- Period Pains
- Ringworm
- Slapped Cheek
- Sore Throat
- Threadworms
- Tonsillitis
- Warts & Verrucae

You should however, seek treatment for the above ailments. Confidential medical advice can be sought from 8am onwards in relation to minor ailments from most pharmacies.

More detailed advice and information on these illnesses can be found on the school website or at the school office.

Absence for long periods of time

If your child is absent from school due to illness for more than three days, or is often absent for short periods, you may be asked for supporting evidence (appointment cards etc.) to confirm the absence. If your child is frequently ill, the school may be able to offer additional support and advice. If your child has had ten days absence in any one half term you will be asked to attend a meeting in school to discuss this.

More Serious Conditions

- **Asthma.** If your child has been diagnosed with asthma you will need to inform the school. It is the parent/ carers responsibility to ensure their child has an inhaler in school, labelled with their name and is not out of date. See the school asthma policy on our website or at the school office.
- **Broken Bones.** School can often make arrangements, following medical advice, for children attending school with broken bones to stay inside where necessary.

The school may in exceptional circumstances be able to help with transport and assist your child to be comfortable in school. If your child has a broken bone please contact the school office for advice following medical attention.
- **Eczema.** Children with eczema can attend school even whilst being treated. Children should only be absent from school on the advice of the GP when the eczema is so severe.
- **Glandular Fever.** This infection is not caught by day to day contact, therefore your child does not need to stay away from school unless they feel too unwell to go.
- **Impetigo.** If your child has, or you suspect they have impetigo, you must seek medical advice and keep your child away from school until the sores have scabbed over and are healing, or 48 hours after starting medication. Don't forget to wash your hands to prevent the illness spreading!
- **Raised Temperature.** You can usually identify a raised temperature through your child looking or feeling shivery. There are lots of reasons for a raised temperature and if symptoms persist you should seek medical attention. As soon as your child is feeling better they can return to school.

Class	Attendance %	Class	Attendance %
RB	N/A	4HW	94.87
RBM	N/A	4W	99.43
1P	98.89	5H	100.00
1T	100.00	5W	98.28
2A	92.22	6D	98.39
2S	93.33	6W	96.67
3G	91.38	Whole School total	96.95
3W	100.00	Cumulative total	96.95

We have introduced some new, whole class, attendance rewards this term so are looking forward to being able to put these into place because of our good attendance!

Don't forget to 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**

Mrs H. McNeill
Headteacher

2021 2022 Termly Events/Activities

Parents/Carers are invited to attend/participate in highlighted events

September

- 14th – 1:30, Staff band performance (Wakefield Music Service), 6:00 Y5 London Trip Meeting for parents
- 21st – 9:00 and 12:30 Nursery Parents Coffee Morning, 3:30-4:30 KS2 Girls Active Squad Meeting
- 23rd – 9:15, Reception Parents Coffee Morning, 11:30 Y6 UK Parliament Workshop
- 27th – 11:30 Y5 UK Parliament Workshop
- 28th -3:30-5:00, Y5/6 Boys Football Tournament at A1 Football Factory
- 29th - Harvest Festival, followed by donations of non-perishable items to the community
- 30th – 9:15, Reception Parents' Phonics Meeting

October

- 1st –9:50, Y5/6 Family Fitness Friday
- w/B 4th -Cross Country Week

- 5th – 3:30 Y3/4 Cake Sale (please could we request donations of buns/cakes etc from our Y3/4 pupils); Parents' Evening
 - 6th – Parents' Evening
 - 12th – 6:00 Esafety Parent Workshop
 - 14th – 9:15, Y5 Learning Festival and Coffee Morning
 - 15th – KS2 School Games Cross Country at De Lacy High School
 - 19th -3:30-5:00 Y5/6 Girls Football at A1 Football Factory
 - 20th – 9:15, Y6 Learning Festival and Coffee Morning
 - 21st - Halloween disco – 4:30-5:30 Y1-Y3 6:00-7:00 Y4-Y6
 - 22nd – 9:50, Y3/4 Family Fitness Friday, Finish for half term holiday
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November

- 1st – Pupils back to school
- 1st – 5th - Parliament Week, Y3/4 Interhouse Football
- 4th – 6:00pm Winter Bingo
- 5th – School Debate (KS2 am, KS1 pm)
- W/B 8th- Y5/6 School Games Girls Football at A1 Football Factory
- 9th – 9:15, Y4 Learning Festival and Coffee Morning
- 15th-19th - Anti-bullying week
- 16th – 6:00 pm, Parents' anti-bullying workshop, 3:30-5:00 Active Curriculum Festival
- 17th – 3:00pm, Reception Parents' Writing Meeting
- 18th - 3:30-5:00 Active Curriculum Festival
- 11th – 10:45 - Remembrance Assembly
- 23rd – 1:30-3:00, KS2 Inclusive Festival at A1 Football Factory
- 25th – 9:15, Y3 Learning Festival and Coffee Morning, 1:30-3:00, KS2 Inclusive Festival at A1 Football Factory
- 22nd – 26th - Enterprise week (creating for Christmas Fayre)
- 30th – 3:30-5:00 y5/6 Dodgeball Tournament

December

- 2nd – 2:00-4:30, 'HPL Light switch on and Christmas Fayre, 4:45 Carols around the Christmas Tree, 30th – 3:30-5:00 y5/6 Dodgeball Tournament
- 7th – 1:30-3:00 Y2 Multi skills
- 9th - 1:30-3:00 Y2 Multi skills
- 10th – Carols in the Community
- 12th – 6:00pm, End of Term Awards Evening and Carol Service
- 15th – Polar Express Day (everyone in pyjamas)
- KS1 nativity
- 6th December – EYFS Nativity Dress Rehearsal
- 8th – 10:00am and 2:00pm EYFS Nativity
- W/B 13th – Santa Dash Cross Country
- 16th – Pupils Finish for Christmas
- 17th – Staff INSET

January

- 4th – Pupils back to school
- 7th - Young Voices Concert, FLYDSA Arena
- 10th – 2:30, Young Voices Parent Concert, Pupils' Art Gallery
- 19th – 9:15, Y2 Learning Festival and Coffee Morning, 3:00pm Reception Parents' Maths Meeting
- 24th – 9:15-10:30 Grandparents Morning
- 26th – 6:00pm, Parent Workshop (topic to be confirmed)
- 27th - Holocaust Memorial Day (KS2)

February

- 1st – 2:00, Class Singing Competition
- 3rd – 9:15, Year 1 Learning Festival and Coffee Morning
- 9th – 9:15-10:30 'Men Behaving Dadly'
- 14th - Valentines' Disco – 4:30-5:30 Y1-Y3 6:00-7:00 Y4-Y6
- 17th – Spring School Debate
- 18th – Finish for half term
- 28th – Pupils back to school

March

- 1st – 6:00, Easter Bingo
- 3rd – World Book Day (dress up as favourite book character)
- 28th Feb - 7th – Fairtrade Fortnight
- 8th - Masterchef Day (Linked to Fairtrade)
- 9th – 9:15, Y6 Learning Festival and Coffee morning
- 15th – Nursery and Reception Cake Sale, Parents' Evening
- 16th – Parents' Evening
- 30th – 9:15, Y5 Learning Festival and Coffee Morning

April

- 2nd – 1st May – Ramadan
- 5th – 6:00pm, Awards Evening/Festival of Music
- 6th - 9:15-10:30 'Where the Wild Mums Are'
- 8th – Finish for Easter
- 25th – Pupils back to school
- 27th-29th – Y5 Residential visit to London

May

- 2nd – School closed
- 3rd-20th – KS1 assessments
- 9th-13th – Y6 SATs week
- 12th – HPL Got Talent
- 13th – Sports Day and Parents' Picnic and Y4/5 Cake Sale
- 16th - 9:15, Y4 Learning Festival and coffee morning
- 17th - HPL Got Talent Finals
- 27th – finish for half term

June

- 6th – Pupils return to school
- 6th-24th – Y4 statutory multiplication check, KS1 statutory phonics screening
- 8th – 9:15 Y3 Learning Festival and Coffee Morning
- 10th – Sports Day and Parents' Picnic Reserve Day
- Y6 residential visit
- 14th – 6:00, Parent Workshop (topic to be confirmed)
- 16th – 9:15, Y2 Learning Festival and Coffee Morning
- 20th – 3:30, Y3 and Y6 Cake Sale
- 24th-25th - Summer camp
- 30th – 9:15am RBM Outdoor Workshop, 2:00pm RB Outdoor Workshop

July

- 8th – 3:30, Summer Fayre
- 12th - Summer production dress rehearsal
- 13th – 1:30pm, Summer production matinee performance, 9:15-Reception EYFS Graduation Assembly

- 14th – 6:00pm, Summer production evening performance
- 19th – 23rd – Eid-al-Adha
- 20th – 9:30 End of Year Awards
- 21st – 2:00, Y6 Leavers Service, Pupils finish for summer