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# Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infant and Nursery School

## Newsletter

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021

What a fantastic first term it has been. It's been wonderful to be able to resume most of our 'usual' events and activities, plus a few new ones and having friends and family back in school has been a treat for staff and pupils! We only hope we can continue to do this as we move into the New Year. On behalf of the Halfpenny community, I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

### Young Voices

I would like to reiterate how disappointed we have been about Young Voices. Firstly, the administration error which was made on their part, resulting in no tickets being allocated to our parents. We were so pleased that so many of our parents wanted to share this experience with the children and were therefore devastated that this could no longer happen.

Secondly, the notification that we received late last night, about the concert being postponed to Spring/Summer. We share the concern around keeping our children and families safe from the pandemic and so must support this decision, but this does not detract from the disappointment we feel about having to wait longer for the concert. Hopefully it will be a blessing in disguise and mean that we'll be able to resolve the issue around parent tickets.

We will let you know as soon as we are provided with a new date. In the meantime, we look forward to our planned 'in school' concert due to take place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 2:30.

### Fitness Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

In order to be able to accommodate all our P.E sessions without having to use a potentially wet and muddy field, we have needed to adjust our Fitness Friday timetable for the spring term. These will be as follows:

Tuesday - Reception

Wednesday – Year 1 and 2

Thursday – Year 3 and 4

Friday – Year 5 and 6

There will be no difference to how the day is currently run, so we ask that pupils wear their correct P.E uniform to school on their allocated day. Thank you.

### PTFA

If you would be interested in volunteering any of your time in this way, even if you aren't able to attend all of the meetings, please get in touch: [admin@halfpenny.patrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@halfpenny.patrust.org.uk) 01977 703270

## SEND Parent Forum

Thank you to those parents who joined us for our second parent forum this week and also to Lucy Hatton (Ed. Psychologist) for joining us. The points discussed were as follows:

- The introduction of a home-school book for all pupils with SEND – we will introduce this in January.
- The possibility of having the buddy system across the school so all pupils have an older ‘go to’ pupil, especially for those pupils who are reluctant to speak to adults – this will be explored more first thing in January
- Epilepsy training for all staff and how often this is received – confirmed all staff trained in September and termly ‘refresher’ sessions take place
- Do all relevant staff have information about specific medical needs and personal care risk assessments – confirmed that this information is shared with all relevant school staff and information passed on verbally to supply teachers (longer-term supply provided with relevant documentation to familiarise themselves with)
- Number of staff leaving and is this normal and how do we ensure there is adequate support in every class– staff do leave and move on to other roles/schools, Lucy Hatton (Ed. Pshych.) confirmed that there seems to be a high turnover of staff nationally possibly as a result of the pandemic. It was confirmed that staffing is reviewed at least half-termly or as the needs of particular pupils/cohorts change. The priority is that the needs of all pupils in the class are able to be met.
- At what point would a pupil need 1:1 support – Lucy Hatton explained the process of SEND provision from identification through to obtaining an EHCP – from quality first teaching in the first instance, to ‘supporting me to learn’ plans devised by the school, to ‘my support plans’ and finally Education Health Care Plans (EHCP). She explained that general school funding allowed for support staff etc to be deployed accordingly according to needs identified on plans and an EHCP sometimes provided an additional ‘top up’ amount.
- School meals provision and pupils’ varying needs, was discussed and it was confirmed that school will do whatever we can to accommodate the individual needs of all pupils.

The next SEND Parent Forum will be held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 2:30. We will follow a slightly different format whereby 1:1 conversations will be facilitated with the headteacher, SENDCo and invited professionals. We hope you are able to join us.

## Poppy Appeal

We have recently received notification that, thanks to your wonderful generosity, we have managed to raise £460.80 – this is, on average, £1 per pupil which is fantastic! Thank you

## After School Clubs

There will be no After School Clubs during the first week of the new term. There will be some changes to the clubs that will be taking place and these will start during week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> January. Further information will be sent via email regarding the new clubs on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

## 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).

We are unfortunately continuing to see a dip in our attendance as winter viruses continue to circulate. Please could I remind parents that we are more than happy for children to attend school with colds, sore throats and runny noses. Our staff have a very keen eye for spotting children who are really under the weather and would be better off at home and we won't hesitate to get in touch if this is the case.

**Well done to Y4 and Y6 for achieving the school target!**

Class	Attendance %	Class	Attendance %
RB	91.2	4HW	97.0
RBM	87.1	4W	98.6
1T	95.4	5H	93.1
1P	96.2	5W	96.0
2S	97.7	6D	97.7
2A	93.3	6W	97.7
3G	91.6	Whole School total	95.8
3W	95.1	Cumulative total	95.8

**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**

## 2021 2022 Termly Events/Activities

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

### January

- 4<sup>th</sup> – Pupils back to school
- 10<sup>th</sup> – 2:30, Young Voices Parent Concert, Pupils' Art Gallery
- 19<sup>th</sup> – 9:15, Y2 Learning Festival and Coffee Morning, 3:00pm Reception Parents' Maths Meeting
- 24<sup>th</sup> – 9:15-10:30 Grandparents Morning
- 26<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm, Parent Workshop (topic to be confirmed)

- 27<sup>th</sup> - Holocaust Memorial Day (KS2)

## February

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

## March

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

## April

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

## May

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

## June

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

- 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> - Summer camp
- 30<sup>th</sup> – 9:15am RBM Outdoor Workshop, 2:00pm RB Outdoor Workshop

## July

- 8<sup>th</sup> – 3:30, Summer Fayre
- 12<sup>th</sup> - Summer production dress rehearsal
- 13<sup>th</sup> – 1:30pm, Summer production matinee performance,9:15-Reception EYFS Graduation Assembly
- 14<sup>th</sup> – 6:00pm, Summer production evening performance
- 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> – Eid-al-Adha
- 20<sup>th</sup> – 9:30 End of Year Awards
- 21<sup>st</sup> – 2:00, Y6 Leavers Service, Pupils finish for summer