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Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infant and Nursery School Newsletter

Newsletter – Friday 21st January 2022

We have enjoyed a superb week in school this week and the children have been fully engaged with their learning across the breadth of the curriculum. As I have walked around the school on a number of occasions dropping into the different lessons that have been taking place, it has been very encouraging to observe how hard the children have been working and with a real focus being placed on the presentation of their work in books!

I have explained to the children that the work they produce in all their different books, whether it be their reading, writing maths or curriculum book represents their individual standards and expectations. We will be looking forward to noting how this continues to improve and evolve over the coming weeks.

School Attendance

I would like to take the opportunity to share with you some very important and interesting statistics with regards to school attendance. The fundamental reason being, I feel that this is such a critical part of school life and is something that we should all have at the forefront of our minds, especially as we continue to travel through some extremely challenging times, due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

I would very much appreciate your ongoing support and understanding with regards to ensuring your child/children are attending school as much as is physically possible. Whether a child is in EYFS or Year 6, it is equally important that they are in school on a daily basis, learning and realising their potential. Absence from school during term time can only be granted under the most exceptional of circumstances. As a school, we fully appreciate the cost savings that are available when taking a holiday during term time. That said, please may I respectfully encourage parents to balance this with considering what is in the very best interests of the child/children.

Interesting School Attendance Facts:

The Government regards 96% as the minimum satisfactory attendance for primary school pupils. Whilst I appreciate illness will impact our attendance figure, holidays that are taken during term time continue to have a detrimental impact.

A 90% attendance figure, is the same as your child being away from school one day every fortnight. A Monday and Friday are the two days where we notice the most significant dips in our attendance figures. Children must receive a minimum of one hour's education after the lunch time register has been taken, in order to qualify for their attendance mark.

An attendance figure of 80% or less is the same as having one day off every week. Across a child's school career, this would result in a child missing two years from school.

A two week holiday each year in primary school =14 weeks teaching time missed, resulting in a great deal of lost learning.

Children with poor attendance find it harder to form lasting friendships, find it harder to catch up on work missed and find settling into their chosen senior schools more difficult.

What can Parents and Carers do to support their child?

- Support your children with packing their school bag the evening before with everything they need - books, kit, money for trips and lunch.
- Make sure their uniform is clean, smart and ready, especially after a weekend or a holiday.
- Help them understand they need to go to bed early in order to get a good night's sleep.
- Set alarms early enough so you don't have to rush in the morning.
- Make sure there is enough time to have breakfast - hungry children don't perform well.
- Punctuality is important - being late for school reduces learning time and disturbs the learning of the other children in the class. If a child is 5 minutes late every day they will miss three days of learning each year. If a child is 15 minutes late every day they will miss 2 weeks of learning each year.

If they are finding the work too hard, or seem unwilling to come to school, talk to their teacher as soon as possible, so together we can find a way to support them.

All the children's attendance figures will be tracked and monitored very closely throughout the year by the Inclusion Team and Headteacher. Those children whose attendance figure falls below 90% during the course of the year, may require some additional help and support strategies from the school, with the aim being to make a positive difference.

Punctuality/Lateness to School

As part of the whole school attendance strategy, we would like to stress to both parents and carers alike, the immense importance of your child/children arriving at school on time. The school day at HPL begins at 8:45am and to ensure there is a smooth and efficient start to each day, it is crucial that all the children are ready to start their daily learning at the same time. To have children arriving at school late, causes disruption and slows the pace of the lessons that are planned by the teachers. This also has a wider impact on the efficient running of the school.

We would very much value and appreciate your support with regards to this matter as well as all the points raised within the school attendance section of this newsletter communication.

School Uniform

Please may I take this opportunity to remind all children and parents/carers that we wish to see the children attending school dressed as smartly as they possibly can be, wearing all the correct uniform items listed on the school's uniform list.

Personal presentation and appearance should be an absolute priority and something that we as a whole school community should be very proud of. As with the PE kit, I have asked all class teachers to

communicate with parents using the Class Dojo platform, if we are noticing any items of school uniform and PE kit are not in place. We will always aim to provide parents and carers with a 7 day period to be able to replace any uniform that does not meet the official criteria.

Reading Newsletter

Reading is at the heart of our curriculum in Halfpenny Lane. Please enjoy sharing the Reading Newsletter for this half term (please see attached) with your child and discussing their class book with them. Keep an eye out over the next couple of weeks for a very special Reading Newsletter written for you by our Year 6 Reading Ambassadors, introducing themselves and the new HPL Librarians!

Year 3 Library Visit

This week it has been the turn of 3G to visit Pontefract Library as part of our reading curriculum. The children enjoyed spending time with the librarians learning how to use the children's library and discussing their favourite authors. Many classes have already had a visit to the library and it has been brilliant to see the children excited to browse and discuss the vast range of books available to them.

'Fitness Wednesday, Thursday, Friday' - REMINDER

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

As ever, please could we ask for your support with regards to ensuring your child is wearing the correct PE kit and footwear. Please refer to the school's uniform list on the school website if you require support with this. I have also requested that the class teachers are closely monitoring the PE kit and trainers that are being worn. Any items which fall outside of the uniform list will not be allowed.

Weekly 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 winners this week are 1P, 2S, 3G, 4W, 5H, 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	Matilda W	3W	Oliver LS
RBM	Blu N	4W	Izzy D
1P	Jack H	4HW	Oliver D
1T	Dylan W	5H	Lily D
2S	Blake M	5W	Charlie G
2A	Luna N	6D	Ellie-Grace G
3G	Joe J	6W	Tai B

Thank you for your continued support. We hope you have a great weekend, and look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday.

The Senior Leadership Team
Halfpenny Lane J, I & N School

**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**