



## HALFPENNY LANE

J, I & N SCHOOL

**Halfpenny Lane J, I & N School**

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Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

As part of the compulsory KS1 and KS2 Personal, Social and Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum, this half term we are learning about Families and People Who Care (including respectful relationships). This is in line with the DFE guidance on Relationships and Sex and Health Education (RSE). In EYFS, children will be learning ways to stay safe and healthy.

Pupils will be taught about the benefits and importance of families and friends and what a healthy relationship looks like. They will understand the wide diversity of families and how it is important to be respectful of these. They will also learn about friendships and how to resolve conflicts. As always, pupils will be provided with the vocabulary and information to report any concerns they may have.

Within PSED Reception children will learn:

- Toothbrushing
- Screen time (internet safety)
- Children's Mental Health Week
- Safer Internet Day
- PANTS rule
- Stranger Danger

Within the relationship aspect of PSHE/RSE KS1 and KS2 will learn:

### KS1

- Families provide us with love, care and security.
- Families may look different but should all be treated with respect.
- If we are worried about a family, we should seek help from a trusted adult.

### LKS2

- Families are important for children growing up because they can give love, security and stability.
- Families may look different from our own but we should respect these differences.
- Friendships should make us feel happy and secure.
- Friendships can have ups and downs but these can be repaired and strengthened.
- If a family relationship or friendship is making us feel unhappy or uncomfortable, we should seek help or advice.

- It is important to be kind and show respect online and report anything that concerns us.

## UKS2

- Different relationships are important for different reasons.
- People celebrate marriage differently.
- Forced marriage is cultural.
- It is ok to say no!

This half-term we will also be celebrating Children's Mental Health Week where we will learn how to care for our mental health and complete activities linked to this year's theme, 'Let's Connect'. We will also celebrate Internet Safety Day where we will learn how to be safe and kind online.

On Friday 3rd February, pupils will also take part in our half-termly RSE drop-down afternoon. This half-term's theme is The PANTS Rule: My Body, My Rules. Children will recap the PANTS rules in an age-appropriate manner and learn how to report concerns. In order to teach this effectively, we will be teaching the children (or recapping for KS1 and KS2) the scientific names for their external genitalia. We will use the words vulva for girls and penis and testicles for boys. We are sure, as parents, you will agree that keeping children safe is paramount and, by partaking in these lessons, children will be equipped with the language they need to protect themselves and report anything that makes them feel upset or worried.

It can feel tricky and embarrassing for some parents and other adults to use the correct terminology for private parts, however messages from research, as well as consistent reports from those that work in child psychology and child protection, have established that doing so reaps many positive benefits. Please note that we do not teach about sex or mention it at all. We also ensure we use child-friendly language at all times. Here are some key reasons why we, at Pontefract Academy Trust, feel it is vital for children to learn these anatomically correct words and take part in these lessons:

- Teaching children the anatomically correct words promotes and increases self-confidence and positive body image.
- Teaching children about consent and privacy will help to develop their personal and social skills and teach them right from wrong.
- It is important for children to know their rights and that their body belongs to them and they are in charge of it.
- It enables children to accurately report medical issues relating to their genitalia rather than giving vague descriptions.
- It increases open communication between child and parents, which will particularly help as they get older and head into puberty. This means they will be able to talk to you about concerns they may otherwise have been too embarrassed or ashamed to.
- From a safeguarding perspective, it equips them to be able to report any potential grooming or sexual abuse.

Parents and carers are the key people in educating their children about their bodies and how they are in charge of them. Often, children want their parents/carers to be the first people who talk to them about these topics. Parents and carers have a unique emotional relationship with their child and knowledge of their maturity and they can respond to their questions more spontaneously as they arise. The teaching offered by school should complement and support the teaching you provide at home. We understand that some questions may be difficult to answer and some conversations are not always the easiest to have. The following websites may be useful to you for further guidance and advice.

[www.NSPCC.org.uk/pants](http://www.NSPCC.org.uk/pants) - this has a great video with a catchy song as well as free downloadable resources, tips on

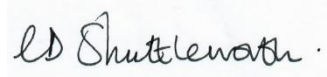
answering questions and even a book you can buy to support this learning at home.

[www.pacey.org.uk](http://www.pacey.org.uk)

[www.arnoldpalmerhospital.com](http://www.arnoldpalmerhospital.com)

As always, if we can support you further in any way, please speak to your child's class teacher or your school's PSHE lead.

Sincerely,  
Mr Shuttleworth

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey rectangular background. The signature reads "Mr Shuttleworth" in a cursive script.