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Halfpenny Lane Junior, Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter

Friday 23rd October 2020

Headteacher Update

We've come to the end of our first half term of this year. I have been so pleased with how the School year has started. So many hard-working children, eager to catch up and improve. I am sure that with this fantastic learning attitude, children will not carry the deficit of the school closure for much longer!

I'd like to personally thank all the parents and carers who have congratulated and wished me well as I prepare to move to De Lacy in January. As I mentioned in my communication, I am really sad to be leaving such a fantastic school but look forward to new challenges.

Parent Consultation Evenings

Thank you to all the parents who we have been able to contact this week through our telephone parent consultations. All of the teachers appreciate that they have been able to share with you the initial progress your child has shown since starting back and how you can help further at home. If you have not been able to speak with your child's class teacher, I recommend you contacting the school office after the half-term break to arrange an appointment.

Wear Blue – Non-Uniform Day

To support The Prince of Wales Hospice, we held a 'Wear Blue' non-uniform day today. The total amount raised was £394.86. Thank you for your kind donations. The Hospice offers support to many people who are unwell and provide wider care to the families who are emotionally affected. The Hospice is a charity and relies on the support of the community and we are happy to help whatever way possible.

Social Distancing

Please can I remind all parents and carers that whilst on school grounds you follow the expectations of social distancing. If you would like to speak to your child's teacher regarding a school matter, please inform the adult on the door and you will be contacted via a phone call. Thank you for your support.

Attendance and Absence

As we approach the winter months, it is normal for adults and pupils to catch a cold or feel slightly under the weather. I would ask that we follow the guidance provided by the government and NHS to ensure children who should be in school attend as normal. If your child is going to be absent from school, please contact school at your earliest convenience.

We ask that your child does not come to school if they display one or more of these symptoms:

- A persistent dry cough
- A raised prolonged temperature
- Your child loses their sense of taste and smell.

If you or one of your household are symptomatic and is currently waiting for the outcome of a test – your whole household must isolate until there is a negative outcome.

Pontefract Civic Society Poppy Display

I am hopeful you will have read my letter earlier this week regarding our half term poppy activity. I am sure you will be enjoying creating your own pop bottle poppies and contributing them towards the Pontefract Civic Society display. I appreciate your help in creating a fantastic display that will act as a point of reflection as we remember those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom today.

2020 Poppy Appeal

We have received some items from the Royal British Legion to raise funds for the 2020 Poppy Appeal. With the current Covid restrictions we have to change the way we sell them, so this year we are asking you to decide in advance what your child would like to purchase. A picture with the options and suggested donations will be sent along with this newsletter. Please pop the donation in a named envelope, along with a first choice and a second choice item your child would like and their class. We will endeavour to supply their first choice option, however this may not be possible due to limited stocks. The item will then be sent to class to be given to your child. As we have limited numbers this year we are also limiting this to KS2 (Year's 3 to 6). This will be on a first come first serve basis and the envelope will be returned if stocks run out. Please hand your requests to your child's class teacher on Monday 2nd November and we will send the items requested back to classrooms by Wednesday 4th November.

Home Support

As we continue through the academic year we appreciate all the help you can provide your children at home. The learning journey of each child can only be successful with partnership between home and school. You can help by:

- Listening to your child read at least 4 times a week. Ask questions about what you have read together, can they retrieve information you have just read?
- Help them with timetables. Try making this a game and challenging them see if they can win or just have fun.
- Ensure they complete their homework or spellings they may have to learn that week.
- Be interested in their learning, discuss what they are doing in school – is there any way you can research further at home what they do in school?

We appreciate all the support you give at home!



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	Ivy S	3P	George D
RBM	The Whole Class	4A	Amanda B
1T	Hannah T	4W	Amelia H
1W	Lucy-Rae C	5H	Brooklyn G
2S	Scarlett T	5W	Millie D
2W	Isla P	6D	Lewis C
3G	Tilly B	6W	Harrison H

Attendance matters! Thank you to all the children who have come to school everyday so far this year!

Class	Attendance %	Class	Attendance %
RB	97.24	4A	98.26
RBM		4W	94.64
1T	96.73	5H	98.61
1W	99.26	5W	98.59
2S	99.21	6D	97.86
2W	95.45	6W	97.16
3G	95.83	Whole School total	97.26
3P	99.60	Cumulative total	96.96

Thank you for your continued support!

Mr James Parkinson – Headteacher