

Half Acres Primary Academy

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Head Teacher: **Mrs R Taylor**

Part of the Inspire Partnership Multi Academy Trust



15th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have reached the end of yet another challenging but very successful week in school. That said, it is hard to believe it's only the second week since returning after Christmas!

It has been so lovely to see the children each day on Teams and we sincerely thank you for your engagement and support during these extremely challenging times. We know that it has been a challenge for both yourselves and the staff at Half Acres to ensure that home learning is in place and running smoothly, but everyone has been patient and tried their best - and that is all we ask for.

We would like to clarify some questions that have arisen with regard to online registration:

- Although the children are working from home, the school has a legal requirement to complete the register each day as we usually would. Therefore, please be aware that we will be contacting the parents/carers of pupils who are not present at the daily live registration, unless the office has been informed that your child will be absent, as the attendance policy is still in place.
- If you have more than one child in school, we are very happy for siblings to attend just one registration session and the teacher will share this with the other class teachers.
- Part of our responsibility as a school is to ensure the safety and welfare of every pupil which is why we require pupils to be seen on camera during registration times. We are aware that there may be occasions when technology does not work as we would like e.g. cameras may not fully function, the internet being patchy at times etc. However, it is important that we visually see each pupil just as we would if they were in school. If we do not hear pupils on a daily basis and regularly see them during morning registration (afternoon for pm Nursery), please be aware that this will trigger our absence policy - phone calls home and home visits. As required by law, we are continuing to monitor the attendance of each pupil and report our attendance figures to the Local Authority and Government. If you do have issues with your technology, please do contact the school as we may be able to help.

We appreciate that the current times are very different to normal school days and that we are all trying our best to provide the children with their education while also trying to stay safe and juggle work and home commitments. Please be aware that when staff do contact you that this is in a supportive manner and that we will do all we can during these restrictive times to work with you.

Next week, the voucher scheme will be introduced for those families in receipt of income related Free School Meals. Please look out for the email notification that your voucher has arrived. Please be patient as this may not be in place until later in the week as we know that this process can take a while to set up. We are determined in our efforts to get these out to you as fast as we can.

On top of everything else we are all managing at the moment, we then had to deal with heavy snow yesterday!! Thank you to all parents and carers for your understanding and collecting your children. Thanks to the remote learning provision we have in place it hasn't stopped us teaching and learning today. The school building may be closed but we're all safe and working hard.

As always, please do contact us directly at ha-enquiries@ipmat.co.uk with any questions you may have or regarding support you may need.

Kind regards

Mrs R Taylor
Headteacher