

Half Acres Primary Academy

Temple Street, Castleford, West Yorkshire WF10 5RE
Telephone: 01977 802325 Website: www.halfacres.com
Email: ha-enquiries@ipmat.co.uk
Acting Headteacher: **Miss J Rowell**

Part of the Inspire Partnership Multi Academy Trust



5th November 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

Unfortunately, the school has been affected by positive cases of Coronavirus this last week. Due to staff testing positive in the Early Years classes, we made the very difficult decision to have to close the Reception classes. We appreciate the support and understanding given to us regarding this decision and are pleased that Early Years will be fully open by Monday 8th November.

We would ask all parents/carers to continue to work with us and follow our risk assessment in order to minimise risk and help keep everyone safe and healthy.

School Council



It has been wonderful to see so many children interested in becoming a school councillor. The posters and speeches that children, from across the school, have been sharing this week have been truly inspirational. We are looking forward to receiving the election results and meeting our new school council.

Act of Remembrance



On the 11th November, the children will be taking part in a special Remembrance Day service on the playground, and observing the two-minute silence.

Value of the Half Term

Cooperation.



Our new value is '**Co-operation**' with teamwork and we will be awarding stickers if the children are recognised for:

1. Helping others to achieve a task.
2. Helping to move equipment.
3. Taking a job or role
4. Reminding each other to follow rules
5. Tidying up together
6. Everyone helps everyone
7. Complementing each other
8. Sharing resources
9. Encouraging each other
10. Taking turns and encouraging others to do the same.

School Dinner Excitement

Today, 5th November, the children enjoyed our Bonfire themed lunch menu.





Next week it is National School Meals Week and to celebrate, Dolce, our meal providers, are offering one lucky pupil from all of the schools they cater for, a chance to win an iPad.

In the spirit of 'I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here', children can collect gold stars for the days they stay for a Dolce school lunch. Any child that has completed the full five stars (had 5 meals that week) will be entered into a prize draw.



Wednesday 15th December will be a festive occasion as we enjoy Christmas Dinner and Christmas jumper day.

Dolce are running a Snowman Competition to create a pack of Christmas cards. The lucky winners from each school will have the chance to win a Nintendo Switch, so do look out for the posters.

Children In Need



The school will be supporting Children in Need on Friday 19th November. For a small donation, the children and staff can wear yellow or spotty t-shirts / tops or Children in Need t-shirts with their normal school trousers/skirts/shorts. Due to COVID-19, windows and doors will be kept open in classrooms, so please ensure your child has a school jumper/cardigan on the day. We can accept cash donations and staff will have a collection box parents can drop money in. For Years 5 and 6, children can bring money in and drop it their class coin collection box. Thank you for your support.

Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week



15th and 19th November

As a school, we are committed to supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of our pupils. As part of this, we will be taking part in Anti-Bullying Week 2021 and the theme 'One Kind Word', emphasising the positive impact a small gesture or comment can have on someone else's day. On Monday 15th and Friday 19th November (also Children in Need day) we will mark the importance of supporting this week and raising awareness of bullying by wearing odd socks. Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique!

Please note, we are not asking for any cash donations; but if you would like to donate to the cause please visit: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk for more information.

Attendance

We are pleased to share the weekly attendance for each class:

Class	% Attendance this Week
Nursery am	82.61%
Nursery pm	87.27%
YRN	96.67%
1K	98.33% 😊
1W	98.40% ★ 😊
2C	97.67% 😊
2S	97.13% 😊

3AB	97.13%	😊
3M	91.34%	
4Mc	96.37%	
5BW	97.41%	😊
5R	91.96%	
6O	88.97%	
Whole School	95.41%	

We have six classes this week who have achieved our target percentage of 97% 😊 - well done! A special CONGRATULATIONS to Class 1W 🌟 who have the highest percentage this week.

Free School Meals Information

PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR PARENTS / CARERS OF PUPILS IN Reception, YEAR 1, YEAR 2 or YEAR 3

You can apply for income-related free school meals on the Wakefield local authority website:

<https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/schools-and-children/free-school-meals>

You are now able to complete the form online so it really has never been easier:

<https://forms.wakefield.gov.uk/Forms/schools/freeschoolmeals.aspx>

If your child is in Reception, Y1 or Y2, they are eligible for Universal FSM but you can still apply if you think you are eligible for income-related free school meals. If your child is in Year 2 and receiving universal free school meals, please remember that this will stop when they move into Year 3 (if your child has just moved into Year 3, this means that unless you are entitled to FSM, they will no longer received free school meals), so please ensure you have applied if you think you are eligible.

School receives additional funding for the number of pupils in receipt of free school meals and it has never been as important as it is now to try to provide crucial interventions to help pupils catch up – any additional funding will help us to achieve this goal.

Twitter



Please follow our Twitter page on @IPMATHalf_Acres or

https://twitter.com/IPMATHalf_Acres to see school updates. We also celebrate our Star of

the Week and Class Dojo Champion winners on this each week.

I would like to wish you an enjoyable and safe Bonfire Night.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Miss J Rowell

Acting Headteacher