

Half Acres Primary Academy

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Acting Headteacher: **Miss J Rowell**

Part of the Inspire Partnership Multi Academy Trust



12th November 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

We are continuing to work hard to keep each other safe and healthy in school, and we appreciate your support with this. To help with this, the events we are planning in the lead up to Christmas, will be class based or will take place outdoors. Now that the weather has turned much colder, please can we remind you to ensure that your child brings a coat to school every day. Thank you!

Act of Remembrance



This week, the children have been learning about The Act of Remembrance and why this is important. On Thursday 11th November, the children and staff took part in a special Remembrance Day service on the playground during which poems were read, the two minute silence was observed and wreaths, made by the children, were laid. During the service, Blake, from Year 6, beautifully read a verse written by the class, and Miss Travis played the Last post and Reveille, on her tenor horn, to mark the two minute silence. It was a very moving service with all of the children showing such maturity and respect throughout. We are so proud of how everyone behaved during this special occasion.



You can watch our Remembrance Service on Twitter.

Early Years Outdoor Play Area

The Early Years outdoor area is an important part of learning for our youngest children. We have to regularly maintain this area to ensure that it remains safe and in good condition. During the term we have noticed that some children have started to play on this area before and at the end of school. Please can we ask for your support to ensure that your child / children stay away from this area and the equipment. This will help us to keep our equipment in tip top condition. Thank you.

Caught Being Kind for Anti-Bullying Week



Next week, as part of Anti-Bullying Week, staff and children will be looking out for anyone around the school who is showing an act of kindness towards others. Stickers with 'Caught Being Kind' will be handed out. Do look out for these.

Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week – Monday and Friday

**ANTI-BULLYING
WEEK 2021**

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.

Children In Need – Friday



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.

School Dinner Excitement



Thank you to all of the children who entered the Dolce Snowman Competition. We have had some fantastic entries. The two winning entries, which will be chosen next week, will be sent to Dolce and entered into their nationwide competition.

Reindeer Run

This year, for Christmas, we have decided to raise funds for a charity close to home, Pontefract Hospice. We are hoping to help raise much needed money to support the crucial work the Hospice carries out for people in our community.

To do this, the children, in all year groups, will be taking part in a 'Reindeer Run' on Friday 10th December. They will be provided with reindeer antlers from the Hospice to assist them. We hope that you will support us by donating towards this very worthwhile cause.

We are asking parents/carers/family for cash donations/sponsorship which should be handed in via the classroom on the day of the 'Reindeer Run'. We have been set a challenge to raise more than £500, which we hope to achieve with the generosity of yourselves and family members.



Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day



This year, Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day will be held in school on Wednesday 15th December (we will not be taking donations this year due to supporting Pontefract Hospice, but if you would like to donate to Save the Children charity please visit: www.savethechildren.org.uk/donate).

If you would like your child to have a Christmas Lunch on this date, please can we ask you to pre order this via the Dolce website as soon as possible.

Attendance

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

Class	% Attendance this Week
Nursery am	91.21%
Nursery pm	98.00% 😊
YRM	93.31%
YRN	98.33% 😊
1K	86.23%
1W	99.21% 🌟 😊
2C	96.30%
2S	91.30%
3AB	93.21%
3M	93.62%
4Mc	94.30%
5BW	97.12% 😊
5R	99.02% 😊
6O	95.19%
Whole School	94.86%

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

Early Years Wanted Items

Early Years are looking for the following:

- Clean pants – age 2 to 7
- Clean socks – age 2 to 7
- Outgrown wellies – any size

If you are able to donate any of these items to the school, we will make very good use of them. Please drop these with the Early Years staff or at the school office – thank you!

Other wanted items



If you or any family / friends have any spare and interesting buttons you are able to donate to school, we will make good use of these.

We are also interested in receiving any unwanted Lego (with instructions if possible). Please drop any of these items into the school office – thank you!

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 receive 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.

Thank you for your continued support, have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Miss J Rowell
Acting Headteacher