

Half Acres Primary Academy

Temple Street, Castleford, West Yorkshire WF10 5RE
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Acting Headteacher: **Miss J Rowell**

Part of the Inspire Partnership Multi Academy Trust



19th November 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

It is an exciting time when we are now starting to plan our Christmas events. This year we will be inviting family members to join us at our outdoor Christmas concerts (weather permitting – we do have a backup plan!). As always in these unpredictable times, we ask you to work with us to keep each other safe so that we can all enjoy a healthy Christmas break. Please look out for information about our concerts and the safety protocols for joining these.

Caught Being Kind for Anti-Bullying Week



As a school, we are committed to supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of our pupils. This week we have been 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. As well as wearing odd socks to celebrate individuality, children and staff have enjoyed giving out 'Caught Being Kind' stickers. Lessons have also had a special focus on how to be a good friend and how to help / support each other. We are very proud of the mature and caring attitudes the children have shown throughout this week.

Children In Need – Friday



The school looked wonderfully spotty today as we supported Children in Need. Thank you for all of your kind donations, we raised £272.00 which will be sent to the charity and added to their total.

Snowman Competition



Thank you to all of the children who entered the Dolce Snowman Competition. We had some fantastic entries. Our cook chose the winners – well done to Rory and Flynn in Year 3. Their pictures have been sent to Dolce and entered into their nationwide competition.

Reindeer Run

We are very excited that we have now had our reindeer antlers delivered ready for the 'Reindeer Run' which will be held on Friday 10th December. This event is to help raise much needed funds to support the crucial work Pontefract Hospice carries out for people in our community.

On the day, every child will be given a pair of antlers to add to the fun of our charity run / walk. We hope that you will support us by donating towards this very worthwhile cause.

Sponsorship forms will be available in classes from next week and 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. 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 School Grid website as soon as possible.

Chocolate Raffle

Everyone enjoys the chance for a bit of indulgence every now and then so, on the afternoon of the Christmas Jumper Day (15th December), we will be holding a Christmas Chocolate Raffle for each class.

If you would like to help us by providing any sweet donations, please bring these to the office by Friday 10th December so that these can be quarantined before the draws. Thank you in advance for your support.

Breakfast Club

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our Breakfast Club survey. We will be using the results to determine the demand for a Breakfast Club at Half Acres.

Attendance

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

| Class | % Attendance this Week |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Nursery am | 90.70 % |
| Nursery pm | 88.68 % |
| YRM | 95.18 % |
| YRN | 96.43 % |
| 1K | 86.30 % |
| 1W | 97.55 % 😊 |
| 2C | 93.54 % |
| 2S | 93.07 % |
| 3AB | 95.52 % |
| 3M | 92.59 % |
| 4Mc | 97.50 % 😊 |
| 5BW | 89.93 % |
| 5R | 98.64 % 🌟 😊 |
| 6O | 93.49 % |
| Whole School | 94.29 % |

We have three classes this week who have achieved our target percentage of 97% 😊 - well done! A special CONGRATULATIONS to Class 5R 🌟 who have the highest percentage.

Parking

We have had several complaints from parents/carers and residents about unsafe parking. Please be considerate of others when parking and do not park on pavements.

Come and join the Team – Lunch Time Supervisor Job Vacancies



As our pupil numbers are continuing to grow, we are looking to appoint new staff to join our ever expanding Half Acres team. We are currently advertising for Lunchtime Supervisors. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in joining our friendly school and Trust, please see the school website (and the advert below) for further information. We look forward to hearing from 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 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.

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

Kind regards,

Miss J Rowell
Acting Headteacher



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Mrs S J Vickerman
Chief Executive Officer

Ackton Pastures & Half Acres Primary Academies are looking for Lunchtime Supervisors

Permanent – Term Time Only

Part Time – 6.25 hours per week (1.25 hours Monday – Friday)

Grade 2 SCP 2 - £18,444.00 – Actual Salary £2,599.12

Both schools were inspected in January 2020 and were rated Good by Ofsted. They each serve central Castleford within the Wakefield 'Five Towns' district.

The schools joined the Inspire Partnership Multi Academy Trust in March 2017. The vision of the Inspire Trust is to develop a community of schools working together to achieve excellent outcomes for all.

We are seeking to appoint Lunchtime Supervisors to supervise our children and organise safe, purposeful and creative play during the lunchtime break which will help support positive behaviour over the lunchtime period. Experience is desirable but not essential as training will be provided. You will be competent in ICT and be willing to attend Safeguarding and First Aid Training.

For an application pack (including application form and job description) please visit www.acktonpastures.co.uk or www.halfacres.ipmat.co.uk or www.ipmat.co.uk

Please return completed applications by email to Julie Wassell, School Business Officer at JWassell@ipmat.co.uk, or in hard copy to either of the schools. NB CV's alone will not be accepted and candidates are required to complete a Trust application form.

Closing date for applications is Monday 29th November 9am 2021

Interviews will be held on Thursday 2nd December 2021

Ackton Pastures & Half Acres Primary Academies are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check as well as successful completion of a probationary period. Shortlisted candidates will be asked to provide details of all unspent convictions and those that would not be filtered, prior to the date of interview. You may be asked for further information about your criminal history during the recruitment process. If your application is successful, this self-disclosure information will be checked against information from the Disclosure and Barring Service before your appointment is confirmed.