

# Half Acres Primary Academy

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Acting Headteacher: **Miss J Rowell**

**Part of the Inspire Partnership Multi Academy Trust**



04<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and carers,

It has been a busy week at Half Acres with some exciting learning taking place, and work starting to improve the safety of our site. Read on to find out more:

## **Fencing and Gates Work**

This week, work has started on replacing and improving the fencing and gates around the carpark and Temple Street side of the school. The height of the fences and gates will be raised which will help to increase security on our school site. The work is due to be completed by the end of February. Please be careful around the area while this work is being carried out.

## **School Council**

We are thrilled that the Half Acres Student Council is fully up and running. The Student Councillors are taking their responsibilities seriously and having relevant, thoughtful discussions as a committee. This week, they have discussed ways of fundraising for a new fitness trail on our school grounds. We will keep you updated on upcoming events to support this.

## **Pol-Ed Workshop**



This week, pupils from Year 6 took part in a two day Junior Police Cadet, Policing and Education, workshop run by West Yorkshire Police. During the sessions the children learnt about and discussed diversity, the criminal justice system and key areas of risk including internet safety and bullying and hate crime. We are very proud of how mature the children were and the thoughtful questions they asked.

## **Haka**

Some of our Year 5 children have been privileged to have a visitor of Māori heritage teach them about the origins of the traditional Haka. The pupils were then taught the moves and language as part of their PE unit. Can you guess which was their favourite move?



## **Chinese New Year**

Over the past week, our Early Years children have been learning all about Chinese New Year and The Year of the Tiger. The children were very excited to learn whether they were born in The Year of the Rooster or The Year of the Monkey and that our school colour (red) is the Chinese lucky colour. They also took part in a Chinese banquet where they tried different foods including spring rolls, noodles, egg fried rice and prawn crackers. The children also learnt to say, "Gung Hay Fat Choy" which means 'Happy New Year' in Cantonese.



### **The Book Fair is landing!**

**February 8<sup>th</sup> 2022 – February 15<sup>th</sup> 2022.**



We are delighted to announce that after two years on hold, the Book Fair is returning to Half Acres!

Children will be invited to visit the Book Fair with their classes and complete their wish lists to take home. Families can browse the shelves at leisure at:

[www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/bookcases](http://www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/bookcases)

**We are pleased that we will now be able to invite parents to attend the Book Fair at the end of each day from 3:15 to 3:45pm. This will be held in the New Hall. To promote social distancing, please see below the suggested days for your child's Year Group:**

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| <b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February:</b>   | <b>Early Years</b>     |
| <b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February:</b> | <b>Year 1</b>          |
| <b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February:</b> | <b>Year 2</b>          |
| <b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February:</b>   | <b>Years 3 &amp; 4</b> |
| <b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February:</b>   | <b>Years 5 &amp; 6</b> |

**Please be aware that this is a cashless event.** For further information regarding ordering, please see the Book Fair letter on the school website or enquire at the school office.

Thank you for your continued support, we can't wait for the Book Fair to arrive!

### **Children's Mental Health Week**

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is 'Growing Together' which links in well with our Value of the Moment – Resilience! During the week, the children will be learning that when life throws challenges our way, resilience can help us to cope when things go wrong, and that it is good to see difficult moments in our lives as opportunities for growth and to see things in a new light. We are looking forward to taking part in some interesting discussions and activities.

### **Safer Internet Day**



Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February is Safer Internet Day 2022. This year's theme is 'Together for a better internet: All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'.

During the week, the children will be learning about how to use technology responsibly and respectfully, including positive interactions with peers online. We will be promoting the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and we encourage parents and carers to reinforce these messages at home.

### **PE Kit**

At Half Acres, we pride ourselves on how our children look.

Please can we politely remind families that for PE children should be appropriately dressed. PE kit is:

- plain white T Shirt
- plain Navy / black Shorts.

In the winter and for outdoor PE children may wear a dark/red sweatshirt and a pair of black leggings or jogging bottoms. Children should have a suitable pair of sturdy trainers for PE in school. We do not permit any tops or shorts with logos or football kits.

**For safety reasons, please ensure that earrings are removed on PE days.**

### Picture News

Picture News is a resource we use to provide our children with opportunities to learn from the world around us. Every other week we look at and discuss a current issue and question that is linked to the news. This helps to open up the world for the children and broaden their interests so that they can make more informed decisions. The next question we will be discussing will be included on next week's newsletter.

### Half Term Dates

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February** – break up for Half Term

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February** – Staff training day

**Tuesday 1st March** – Return to school

### Attendance

Attendance and punctuality are essential for your child to make the most of their learning. The children are encouraged to have 100% attendance, and aim for a minimum of 97% over the Academic year. **We also expect pupils to arrive at school by 9am each morning – thank you for your support with this.**

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

| Class        | % Attendance this Week   |
|--------------|--|
| Nursery am   | 91.35%   |
| Nursery pm   | 93.33%   |
| YRM          | 90.38%   |
| YRN          | 80.74%   |
| 1K           | 95.77%  |
| 1W           | 90.00%   |
| 2C           | 94.72%   |
| 2S           | 92.86%   |
| 3AB          | 94.44%   |
| 3M           | 93.19%   |
| 4Mc          | 95.36%   |
| 5BW          | 88.42%   |
| 5R           | 91.72%   |
| 6O           | 85.23%   |
| Whole School | 90.99%   |

Unfortunately no classes have achieved our target percentage of 97% this week. Well done to Class 1K  who have the highest percentage this week!

### Twitter



Please follow our Twitter page on @IPMATHalf\_Acres or [https://twitter.com/IPMATHalf\\_Acres](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.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Miss J Rowell  
Acting Headteacher