

Half Acres Primary Academy

Newsletter February 2018

As we approach the end of what has been a very busy half term in school we would like to update you on a few key reminders and events that are happening in school. Please note that school closes to children at 3.20pm on Thursday 15th February and reopens at 8.50am on Monday 26th February.

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK

We are sad to say that after many years of working at Half Acres, Mrs Baker will be leaving at the end of this week to pursue a new career. I am sure you will join us in wishing her well for the future. She will be very much missed.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS (Early Years 2 to Year 5)

Spring term parent consultations, scheduled for 28th February and 1st March are approaching. This will be an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress since the initial meeting in October. Appointment times will be returned to you this week.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

This term we have opened our libraries to parents to come in and choose books with your children after school. Due to low numbers we will be running book clubs three nights a week for children who wish to stay. (See book club letter.)
Year 1 & 2 children can attend on Fridays until 4pm
Year 3 & 4 parents can attend on Tuesdays until 4pm
Year 5 & 6 parents can attend on Wednesdays until 4pm.

RESIDENTIAL VISITS

A reminder to parents of pupils in Years 4 to 6 that deadlines for payment are due in the next few weeks. These are:-

York: Final Payment of £30 by 2nd March
Low Mill: To be paid in full by 2nd March
London: Final Payment of £81 by 29th March
Please see the office if you have any queries.



ON-LINE PAYMENTS

The use of the online payment system has been a huge success and we hope eventually to become a cashless school office.

However, it has been noticed that some parents are only paying the amount outstanding i.e. the figure shown on your child's account. Following your payment at the start of each week, your child's account should show a minimum of £11.50 in credit. We also need to remind you of the importance of paying weekly or in advance and not in arrears.

WELLY DAY

Watch out for news of our upcoming Welly Day. Further details will be revealed by Year 4 shortly.



INSPIRE WORKSHOPS

I would like to say a big thank you for all the parents who came into school to support your children during our recent Inspire reading workshops. I hear some of the parents were even trying their hands at the same tests their children are currently preparing for. Well done.

Please do not let this put you off future workshops!

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

This year the whole school attendance target is **97%**. Please support us by ensuring children arrive on time and stay in school all day.

Please be advised that we do not authorise term time holidays except in exceptional extenuating circumstances. Holidays taken in term time may incur penalties for families. These are £60 per parent, per child. The fine rises to £120 per parent, per child if it is not paid within 28 days.

NEW GAZEBO AND STAGE

Regular visitors to our school playground may have noticed we now have a new gazebo and stage which I know the children are looking forward to being able to make good use of. We are still awaiting improvements to drainage before we can use these. School fund money allowed us to purchase the stage and the children look forward to inviting you to see future performances.

PUNCTUALITY

There has recently been a significant rise in the number of pupils arriving late into school. It is important pupils arrive on time in order that they do not miss learning and that they learn good habits for life. Doors open in Nursery at 8.40am and across the rest of school at 8.50am, and remaining open for ten minutes. Those pupils arriving after this are marked as late within the next ten minutes. If your child has ten lates they will be referred to the EWO and fines may be incurred.

Class attendance since September 2017 - 94.8%

Nursery AM & PM	92.1%	2OD	95.3%
EY2F	93.3%	3S	95.4%
EY2W	93.7%	4MO	95.2%
1GR	94.7%	5B	95.5%
1N	94.6%	6B	94.8%