
Ackton Pastures Primary Academy

College Grove,
Castleford,
West Yorkshire
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Email: AP-Enquiries@ipmat.co.uk
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Headteacher: Miss K. Lea
Chair of Governors: Mrs B. Riley
Safeguarding Officers: Miss K. Lea
Mr K. Allanson
Miss A. Bustard
Mrs A.M. Stringwell

Friday 15th January

Happy New Year!

What an unexpected start to the new year! Whilst it wasn't the start to the new term we were expecting or hoping for, I have been absolutely blown away by the way that staff, pupils and families have been able to quickly adapt. Our children have once again shown how resilient and flexible they are by moving to remote learning so quickly and it has been an absolute pleasure to be able to pop in to registration sessions and live lessons and see so many happy, smiling faces. This week our teachers and teaching assistants have been busy delivering live lessons, correction clinics as well as caring for vulnerable children and children of critical workers within school. I'm sure you will join me in praising their efforts in making sure that all our children are happy and learning during these challenging times.

Remote Learning

We have seen a fantastic uptake in remote learning this week, a special congratulations to 6W who were the first class to achieve 100% attendance in their morning registration sessions.

Our morning registration sessions are an essential part of our safeguarding procedures as a school. We must see your child 'live' during the morning to make sure they are safe and well. If we do not see your child, you will receive a welfare call from your class teacher daily and we will conduct home visits to check on children. We appreciate that many parents are juggling working from home with remote learning and as a result all lessons are available to download and watch at a time that is convenient for your family but attendance at registration is essential and an expectation for all children.

If you are struggling to access live registration sessions please call the school office or email ap-enquiries@ipmat.co.uk so we can support you to access these sessions.

Free School Meals

This week the guidance for schools regarding free school meals changed and as of Monday, we will be moving to a voucher system for all children eligible for free school meals. Please be aware that this does not include universal free school meals, which are offered to every child in KS1. The vouchers are issued by a separate company to school and we do not have any control over the date that these vouchers will be issued to families. We would ask that

you remain patient, as a school we have provided all the necessary information and are reliant on the timescales of the company issuing the vouchers.

Places in School

This week a letter was circulated from our trust, reminding parents of the importance of only sending children to school if parents are critical workers and unable to safely care for them at home. We have, yet again been starkly reminded of the prevalence of this virus as we have had another confirmed positive case within the children in school. I understand the pressures on working parents of having children at home however; it is vital that if you are able to care for your children at home, you continue to do so. Your class teachers are available daily via Seesaw for support, or you can contact the senior leadership team by contacting the school office.

Staffing Update

At the end of Autumn term interviews were held for Assistant Headteachers for Ackton Pastures and I am delighted to inform you that Mr Allanson and Mrs Whalley have both been appointed as Assistant Headteachers. Mr Allanson and Mrs Whalley are extremely well respected amongst the staff team have worked tirelessly as part of the school's Senior Leadership Team. I know they are both very excited about their new roles and are committed to building on the school's current successes to achieve even better outcomes for our children. Congratulations!

Congratulations Miss Bustard

A huge congratulations to Miss Bustard on the safe delivery of a beautiful baby boy! We are all looking forward to a time when we can get to meet him properly!



Miss K. Lea

Headteacher

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