



WELCOME TO HALF ACRES PRIMARY ACADEMY

**"ASPIRING TO ACHIEVE -
ENRICHING LIVES"**

WELCOME



Half Acres Primary Academy is part of the Inspire Partnership Multi-Academy Trust (IPMAT). Most of our pupils live in Castleford but we also welcome children from the surrounding areas. The school grounds consist of separate Early Years Foundation Stage indoor and outdoor provision, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 outdoor play, an extensive playing field and a developing Forest School. The large school field hosts an outdoor stage, pavilion and a trim trail.

We pride ourselves on providing an exciting and enriched curriculum for our pupils, including visits and visitors to extend their experiences and enable them to know more, understand more and remember more. We welcome our families to join us throughout the year in celebrating successes both in and out of school. There are also a number of events for parents and carers to experience learning in action.

Interwoven throughout our curriculum and ethos, are embedded values that allow children to develop an understanding of themselves and appreciate the impact they have on other people and on the world in which they live. Ultimately, we endeavour to support children's development of resilience which will enable them to overcome life's challenges. Each half term we focus on a key value and share these values in our assemblies, in our classrooms and around the school.

Where children are seen demonstrating these values, they are recognised which encourages them to share and celebrate.



THE CURRICULUM



At Half Acres Primary Academy, we believe that a good education can positively transform children's lives. A strong academic education is at the core of what we do, but we also know that education is about so much more than this so that the whole child is nurtured and prepared for later life. Our curriculum is designed to develop the whole child with our curriculum aims threaded throughout each year. We are passionate that 'Values are the heart of every that we do'. At Half Acres Primary School, we will:

- Enable our children to have high aspirations for a successful future, built on strong academic foundations
- Broaden horizons through a rich curriculum that promotes language development and real-life learning
- Equip children to be self-confident learners who are resilient
- Enable everyone to be proud of our individuality, respect our diversity and be proud of our heritage
- Empower children to lead positive lives that are physically and mentally healthy



BEHAVIOUR



Half Acres Primary Academy is absolutely committed to creating a school and community environment where exemplary behaviour demonstrated by pupils and staff is at the centre of productive learning. Every pupil has the right to learn and the responsibility to ensure their peers do. Every member of staff has the responsibility to ensure that pupils are taught how to do this. Every individual is expected to maintain the highest standards of personal conduct, to accept responsibility for their choices—right or wrong—and to encourage others to do the same.

Staff are enabled to teach and foster self-discipline within our student body, this echoes our core values. A carefully planned partnership approach is used to manage poor conduct and includes dynamic interventions that support staff and students.

OUR WIDER, CHARACTER CURRICULUM



The Principles That Inform Our Values Based Curriculum

We encourage our children to show responsibility and honesty and ask them to admit when they have made mistakes and not to blame others. We expect them to volunteer, take charge of their learning and not rely on others.

We facilitate cooperation and teamwork and expect the pupils to help others to achieve a task, remind each other to follow rules, share resources and take turns.

Resilience is our next value and we ask pupils to embrace challenges and risks, go outside of their comfort zone for example (trying a new sport, participating in the school play, or striking up a conversation with a shy peer) and to 'bounce back' if they have made a mistake.

Showing respect to everyone is our next value and being courteous and good mannered to everyone (holding doors open for adults and other children.. "Can I help you carry those books?"). Children are taught the importance of taking care of equipment, listening to the opinions of others, make everyone feel welcome, comfortable and safe and treating others as they would want to be treated.

To demonstrate friendship our children show that they are trustworthy, honest and loyal, are generous, are supportive of others, pay compliments and have a positive outlook. We expect everyone to show tolerance of difference and to empathise with the feelings of other people. They should try to understand the other person's point of view and accept that people are different, demonstrating a curiosity about the traditions, religions and culture of other people and talking about differences respectfully. Our pupils speak up when other children tease someone because they are different.

Each one of us, every day, in every way, seek to live by these Half Acre values, and to help others to do so too.

THE EXTENDED CURRICULUM



Our extended curriculum is there to provide the children at Half Acres opportunities to develop interests, develop new talents and widen their horizons.

We have a bespoke after school club offer which is planned to meet the needs of the children at Half Acres. Some clubs are by invitation only, when we are meeting a specific need, or group of children whilst others are open to all. We aim to develop knowledge, interests and cultivate talents. All clubs are planned to impact attainment.

Complimenting this is our wrap around clubs which are also carefully planned with activities to support children's learning and development. Children's out of school achievements are shared in our weekly celebration assemblies and are numerous and wide ranging from competing in gymnastics events, gaining their first swimming certificates or receiving a Blue Peter badge.

We have a number of leadership opportunities that children can apply for.

We offer a wide range of trips and visits to religious buildings, galleries, museums, musical events, the local countryside as well as two residential opportunities, one in lower key stage 2 and one upper key stage 2. We believe it is important to provide these high-quality opportunities to develop children's knowledge, cultural awareness and wider world view contributing to our virtues of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.



EARLY YEARS - Nursery and Reception



Nursery

Our Nursery places are either morning, afternoon or 30 hours.

The morning session is 8.45am to 11.45am and the afternoon session is 12.15pm to 3.15pm.

In Nursery we do not insist that children wear uniform, although we would recommend it.

Reception

All of our Reception places are full time. The session is 8:50am to 3:15pm.

It is important that you bring your child to school on time and collect them promptly. It can be very distressing for a child to arrive late or be the last one to leave. Children will be given staggered start dates. Starting school is a big step for all children and much will depend on your child's previous experience. Children who are used to leaving parents and /or have previously attended a playgroup or nursery may settle easily as they are used to mixing with other children. We want your child to feel safe, comfortable and happy in their new environment and it can take time for them to get used to new faces, surroundings and routines. It is normal for some children to find this upsetting at first but our staff are very experienced at helping children to settle. Most children are able to stay for the full session after their first day but some children may need to build up to this. Each child is unique so we tailor our approach to each individual in discussion with their families.

In Reception, all children wear uniform. In Early Years we frequently have messy activities and, whilst we provide aprons, accidents do happen.

Preparing for Early Years

Before your child starts Early Years, we ask that you help your child to:

- Use the toilet and wash their hands independently.
- Put on and take off their clothes, socks and shoes in preparation for PE.
- Share with others and take turns
- Tidy up toys and put them away in the correct place.
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This is a very exciting time for you and your child. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to getting to know you and your child very soon!

THE SCHOOL DAY



'Inspire self-belief, instil moral values and ignite a love of life-long learning'



THE SCHOOL DAY

Doors Open: 8.45am

The School Day Ends: 3.15pm

The school day starts at 8:45am, the registers stay open for 30 minutes after this time. Any marks after this time will be unauthorised. From 9:00am children must enter school via reception where they should be signed in by parent/carer.

Nursery

Morning Session: 8.45am - 11.45am

Afternoon Session: 12.15pm - 3.15pm

All day children: 8.45am - 3.15pm

At Half Acres Primary Academy we work closely with parents and carers to achieve and maintain high standards of attendance. For a child to reach their full educational potential, coming to school every day is essential. We are committed to providing an education of the highest quality for all our children in an environment where all pupils feel welcome and valued. Every child has a right to access the education to which they are entitled.

It is our duty to consistently strive to achieve a goal of 100% attendance for all children. We use every opportunity to convey to pupils and their parents or carers the importance of regular and punctual attendance. For our children to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered it is vital a child is at school, on time, every day the school is open, unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. High attainment, confidence with peers and staff and future aspirations depend on good attendance.

As set down by the Department for Education, schools are only able to authorise absence from school in exceptional circumstances. When requesting an authorised absence from school you will need to explain why the circumstances are exceptional. Please note there is no general right to authorise absence for a family holiday and if you take your child out of school without permission the absence will be unauthorised and a Penalty Notice may be considered.

UNIFORM AND STOCKISTS



There are more advantages than disadvantages to the wearing of a school uniform. It is because of the positive attitudes and values it instils in our children that the school supports and promotes it as a fundamental and integral ingredient necessary to the complete education of the pupils at Half Acres Primary Academy.

The wearing of school uniform:

- Helps to raise standards, attitudes and values in school.
- Gives children a sense of belonging.
- Acts as a social leveller i.e. No child stands out as being better or worse off than any other child.
- Means there are no arguments in the mornings about what to wear for school. This makes it much easier for parents.
- Is an integral part of the school's discipline and behaviour strategy and teaches children that it is important to conform.

Everything **MUST** be labelled with the child's name.

AT HALF ACRES PRIMARY ACADEMY OUR UNIFORM CONSISTS OF:

- SHIRT - WHITE OR WHITE POLO
- TROUSERS/SHORTS/SKIRTS - BLACK
- DRESSES - CHECKED BLUE
- CARDIGANS/JUMPERS - NAVY BLUE
- SUITABLE SHOES - BLACK



AT HALF ACRES PRIMARY ACADEMY OUR PE KIT CONSISTS OF:

- SHORTS/JOGGING BOTTOMS - BLACK
- T-SHIRT - PLAIN WHITE
- JACKET (COLDER WEATHER) - BLACK
- OUTDOOR TRAINERS / PUMPS - BLACK

ALL PE KIT MUST BE PLAIN AND UNBRANDED

**FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY REASONS CHILDREN ARE NOT PERMITTED
TO WEAR EARRINGS FOR PE THESE SHOULD BE REMOVED BY
PARENTS / CARERS BEFORE SCHOOL**



SCHOOL MEALS



OUR MEALS

Nursery children should bring a packed lunch to school.
From Reception year upwards children may choose packed lunches or school dinners. At Half Acres our school dinners are cooked fresh, on site by Aspens.

We offer a choice of menus per term, operating on a three-week cycle and served with a selection of healthy side dishes, bread and a well-stocked salad bar. There is a hot food, vegetarian, sandwich and pasta/ jacket potato option daily.

All our menus are nutritionally analysed to make sure they are compliant with the School Food Standards.

SCHOOL MILK AND SNACK

Milk is FREE to Nursery pupils and is ordered direct by school.

Reception - If your child turns 5 in the coming term then you start paying for milk if your child wants it. More details will be provided when your child starts school.

All children should bring water in a named plastic bottle.

A small fruit/veg snack is provided daily. In Early Years to supplement this we ask for voluntary contributions, payable on Arbor.

HOW TO ORDER

Children in Key Stage 1 and Reception are eligible for Universal Infant Free School Meals.

When your child starts school you will be provided with details regarding how to pay and order school meals.

tMeals can be ordered via Swift Kitchen once your log on is received.



Free School meals are now available to all families receiving a wide range of benefits if you think you may be eligible please complete the applicationh at Wakefield council on the before link:

www.wakefield.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools/free-school-meals

HALF ACRES PRIMARY ACADEMY



At Half Acres we use the below systems:



Arbor : Please ensure your child's details, contact numbers and consents are up to date. This is done via Arbor along with the booking system for Breakfast club and Wraparound Club. School trips and visit consents will also be via Arbor. If you require a log on please contact/attend the office with your email address.



Class Dojo: This is used to post school events, information and pictures from throughout the school day. This can be used as a quick point of communication to the class teacher. If you require access please contact the school office.

Absences should be reported via phone on 01977 802325 option 1 not via ClassDojo.

GET IN TOUCH

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