



Weekly Family Newsletter

w/c Monday 3rd May 2022

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|---|--------|
| What's Happening this Week? | Bank holiday | Y2 visit the Institute of Sports | Y1 Big PE Day 3pm Y1 Encanto Song and Dance After School Club starts | Y2 Big PE Day 3pm Y2 Multi-skills After School Club starts | |
| And Next Week ? | Y2 SATs start at our school and will continue until the end of May (assessment info attached) | | Y1 Big PE Day 3pm Y1 Encanto Song and Dance After School Club | Y2 Big PE Day 3pm Y2 Multi-skills After School Club | |



Attendance for the week ending 29th April 2022:

| Class | Attendance (%) |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Mrs Jordan | 98.8 |
| Mrs Hibberd | 97.6 |
| Miss Dale | 95.9 |
| Mrs Bettinson/Mrs Briggs | 88.8 |
| Miss Hughes/ Mrs Hipkin | 96.4 |
| Mrs Timmons | 96.7 |

Overall attendance for the week was 95.8%

Dates for the diary

- Queen's Jubilee celebrations for the children in school and nursery will take place on Thursday **May 26th** (see information overleaf!)
- **Friday May 27th** - INSET day (school closed)
- Half term holiday—**28th May to 5th June**
- **Mon 6th June**— **school closed** due to day in lieu of the Queen's Jubilee that falls in the half term holiday (see below for more information)*
- **Wed 6th July** - Sports Day (led by Sports Leaders from Westfield - times for each year group TBC).

*School will be closed to the children on **Monday 6th June** as we have set this as the additional day that schools have been given for the Jubilee this year (schools are free to set this themselves so the actual date differs between schools, although we have set the same date as the Junior School to minimise impact for parents/carers).

Why do schools have an additional day off in place of the bank holiday this year?

The 2021-22 calendar includes an additional bank holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The traditional bank holiday has been moved to Thursday 2 June and the additional day will be on Friday 3 June. As the bank holiday takes place during the Spring Bank school holiday, 'teaching and non teaching staff will be entitled to an additional day's leave. The government has therefore legislated to reduce the teaching year from 190 to 189 days. Individual schools will decide when to take the additional day.' (Taken from: <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/schools-childcare/school-information-term-dates>)

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations at Halfway Nursery Infant School



With the upcoming Jubilee fast approaching, we wanted to let everyone know how we plan to celebrate this event in school and nursery.

On Thursday 26th May we plan to have our very own Jubilee Party Day. The children and staff are welcome to wear party clothes fit for a royal celebration, or, if you prefer, their usual clothes with a red/white/blue theme. We do hope to have this celebration outside (in 'street party' style!) but, due to the temperamental, ever-changing British weather, we have back up plans to ensure the children have a fantastic day, whatever the weather! Taylor Shaw has also kindly offered to do a special picnic/ buffet style themed lunch for the children on this day, in keeping with the theme.

Due to the building work the usable space in our school and on the school grounds is limited (and, therefore, the numbers we are safely able to accommodate on our site at the present time is also limited for safety). Whilst this means that we are unable to extend the invitation for parents/carers to attend large events until the work has been completed, the children will all be celebrating the Jubilee in style, and we have some lovely activities planned on the 26th which we hope will create really special memories for them. We will not let a little thing like a major building project stop us from celebrating and having a party day that is fit for royalty!

We would love to get everyone at home involved as much as possible, and, therefore, our History Curriculum Lead – Mrs Briggs—has also planned a fun competition for you to join in with at home; we will be having a competition to recreate the Coronation Portrait. You can be creative and use anything you already have at home to make your own version of this famous portrait. Please post your competition entries onto Tapestry no later than Monday 23rd May with the title 'Coronation Portrait'.

We will then choose one winner per year group that will be announced on Thursday 26th May, and the winning entries will be presented with a very special prize.

Thank you to Mrs Briggs for organising this, and for sending this great example of an entry!



We will also be having a raffle with some really amazing prizes! Tickets will be available to purchase on the mornings of Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th May from the bottom playground. Good luck everyone!

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Library Competition

Sheffield Libraries are launching a fantastic competition based on 'The Queen's Knickers', the bestselling book by Nicholas Allan.

Do you think you could design a fantabulous pair of knickers that the Queen could wear for her Platinum Jubilee celebrations?

To take part, call into your local library between **Tuesday 3 May and Wednesday 1 June**.

The competition is open to children of all ages. There are three age ranges in which to enter your design. The winners of the 0-5 years and 6-8 years categories will receive a signed copy of The Queen's Knickers and the 9-12 years category will receive a copy of Charlotte's Web (which is celebrating its 70th year of publication this year).



CALLING ALL KNICKER DESIGNERS



COMPETITION BASED ON THE QUEEN'S KNICKERS BY NICHOLAS ALLAN

FROM 3 MAY TO 1 JUNE IN SHEFFIELD LIBRARIES

Can you design an extra special pair of knickers for the Queen to help her celebrate her Platinum Jubilee?



PRIZES

0-5 years a signed copy of The Queen's Knickers by Nicholas Allan published by Red Fox
6-8 years a signed copy of The Queen's Knickers by Nicholas Allan published by Red Fox
9-12 years a copy of Charlotte's Web by E.B. White published by Puffin which is also 70 years old this year.

For more information and to pick up a template please contact your local library.



To continue the literary theme of the competition above, here are 10 top tips from Sheffield Libraries to support children as they learn to read...

1. Encourage your child to read

Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and also has educational benefits. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.

2. Read aloud regularly

Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and poring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life.

3. Encourage reading choice

Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.

4. Read together

Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.

5. Create a comfortable environment

Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently - or together.

6. Make use of your local library

Local libraries offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and ebooks to borrow. See [Libraries Connected](#) for more digital library services and resources.

7. Talk about books

This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out.

Contd....

8. Bring reading to life

You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.

9. Make reading active

Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

10. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. Short, creative activities often interest young children. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it.

Don't forget that we subscribe to **Bugclub** as a school which has lots of fun reading activities and texts that match your child's reading stage, and you can access all this from the comfort of your own home too!

If you would like information and advice on how to support your child's reading at home further or how to use Bugclub, please don't hesitate to see a member of staff.

Nursery News

- We would like to invite any prospective new nursery children parents/carers to look around nursery on **Friday 27th May at 11.30 am**. This is an INSET training day, so there will be no children in school or nursery and the staff can give you their undivided attention!
- Nursery would be really grateful for donations of age appropriate jigsaws and any unwanted small plastic animal figures please.
- If you are providing your child with a packed lunch, could you please ensure that food such as grapes, sausages and tomatoes are cut into smaller pieces before being added to the lunch box for safety.

Y2 Sporting Superstars!

A massive well done to our Y2 children who worked their socks off in the sporting activities and who loved their visit to the Institute of Sport yesterday. Our children did brilliantly and were awarded certificates for coming in third and sixth place.

Brilliant team work Y2!

A huge thank you also to the adults who made this possible (including our volunteers on the trip, the staff who organised this, and to you for getting up extra early to get them to school for 8am prompt!).

We are hoping there will be additional opportunities coming up too for other year groups to attend sporting events out of school as know how much they enrich the PE curriculum, promote health and fitness and also how much the children love going to them!

With kindest regards,

Paula Bestall

Statutory Assessments in Key Stage One—from next week

What are SATs?

SATs stands for Standard Assessment Tests. They are designed to measure a child's educational achievement in Years 2 and 6. This, in turn, is designed to measure the school's performance and achievement.

The government cancelled SATS nationally in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic, and has confirmed that they will go ahead in 2022.

SATs are managed and administered by the Government's Standards and Testing Agency within the Department for Education. You can find out more about the Standards and Testing Agency at: Standards and Testing Agency - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

When will KS1/Y2 SATs take place?

The Key Stage 1 SATs will be administered in the month of May. The precise days of the KS1 tests varies from school to school (when compared with Key Stage 2 SATs which have set days/dates allocated for administration nationally). If your child is in Y2 and you know they will be absent at all in May, please inform the School Office as soon as possible.

KS1 SATS - what do they measure?

The KS1 tests are designed to assess pupils' knowledge and understanding of the KS1 programmes of study/curriculum. Teachers must administer the English reading and mathematics tests to help make a secure judgement for their final assessment at the end of KS1. The tests make up one piece of evidence for the overall Teacher Assessment judgement.

The KS1 tests consist of:

- English reading Paper 1
- English reading Paper 2
- Mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic
- Mathematics Paper 2: reasoning

Pupils completing the tests should be given the opportunity to attempt each test paper. KS1 tests are not strictly timed so teachers can use their discretion to decide if pupils need a rest break during any of the tests or whether, if appropriate, to stop a test.

Who takes KS1 SATs?

The tests are designed for pupils who have completed the KS1 programmes of study/curriculum and are working at the overall standard of the tests in Y2.

Teachers should use their knowledge of each pupil when considering whether to administer the tests to them. They may also use practice materials to inform these decisions.

KS1 tests are intended to assess pupils' abilities in a fair and comparable way.

Most pupils with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) can participate using the standard versions of the tests. However, a small number of pupils may need additional arrangements and/or modifications, including pupils whose learning difficulty or disability significantly affects their ability to access the tests, children who have behavioural, emotional or social difficulties, and/or children with English as an additional language (EAL)/who have limited fluency in English.

Headteachers make the final decision about whether it is appropriate for a pupil to take the tests and will discuss the pupil's circumstances and needs with their parents/carers and teachers and consult, if appropriate, with the Special Educational Needs Coordinator, educational psychologist, medical professional or other specialist staff to consider access arrangements that might be appropriate to enable pupils to demonstrate their full abilities.

If a headteacher decides a pupil should not take one or more of the tests (for example, if a child has not completed the relevant KS1 programme of study/curriculum, be working at the pre-key stage 1 standards etc. or be working at the standard of the KS1 tests but unable to participate, even when using suitable access arrangements), they must report this decision to the pupil's parents/carers.

We really value the progress and attainment of all children and monitor this across school. Should your child be working below the standard of the national curriculum etc., they will be assessed through alternative assessments and their progress will be celebrated at the end of the year.

SATS continued

How are they delivered?

The children will be aware that they are completing important work/quizzes from next week and, although these may not be labelled as 'tests' to the children to avoid unnecessary worry, they are delivered under test conditions and in accordance with the assessment framework.

The tests are confidential and children cannot be aided to work out their answers. The KS1 tests are not strictly timed, unlike KS2 SATs, and, therefore, KS1 teachers can use their discretion to decide if pupils need a rest break during any of the tests or whether, if appropriate, to stop a test early for a child.

Although we adapt our environment to ensure that children are able to complete the tests without the children being distracted or having an unfair advantage (e.g. displays may need to be covered, children may be in a smaller group etc.), the spaces the children will use to complete their SATs will also be familiar to them e.g. classrooms, library, school hall etc.

Parent/carer reports

The papers at KS1 are marked internally by our teachers, in accordance with the mark scheme provided by the Standards and Testing Agency, and the results will form part of the end of year teacher assessment for your child (as the teachers take the results into account as they report their final end of year assessments for KS1 children).

We include a summary of the overall teacher assessments in the end of year report, for your reference, by the end of the Summer Term (usually at the end of June/beginning of July).

Other Statutory Assessments in Key Stage 1

Year 1 Phonics Screening

The Phonics Screening Check is another statutory national test that is conducted to show how well children can use the phonics skills they have learnt up to the end of Year 1, and to identify students who need extra phonics help. The short screening test takes about four to nine minutes to complete and consists of 40 words and non-words that the children are asked to read one-on-one with a trained member of staff (usually their class teacher). NB—Non-words/pseudo-words (or 'alien words' as our children may refer to them) are words that follow phonics rules the children have been taught, but don't mean anything—the children will need to read these with the correct sounds to show that they understand the phonics rules behind them.

In 2022 the phonics screening week in Y1 is the week commencing **Monday 6 June 2022**.

What can we do to support our child out of school?

- Continue to read with your child every night and ask questions about what they have been reading.
- Fluency in basic number facts and the 2, 5 and 10 times tables will enable your child to have more confidence in approaching the maths paper.
- Home learning really supports the children's learning at school and therefore helps develop skills in preparation for national assessment