



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 11th September 2023

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.



Attendance figures for each class will appear here from next week.

Office Opening Hours

The **main school office** is open each day from 8am - 4pm, and the phone will be answered within these hours. Outside of these hours you will have the opportunity to leave an answer phone message, which will be replied to, if necessary, when the office is next open.

If you need to contact **nursery** for any reason, then please call the school office number (including if your child will be absent). If you call the nursery number, this will automatically divert to the school office.

Design Your Own Christmas Card

We are running the Design Your Own Christmas Card scheme again this year, to raise funds for Easter activities. Soon, you'll receive a letter and form with all the details of how to submit your child's design and place an order. We can't wait to see what your children produce!

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, please ring as early as possible on 0114 248 2360. Choose Option 2.

Please remember:

As summer seems still to be with us for a little while longer —please remember that every day your child needs to bring:

- * A **sun hat**
- * A bottle filled with **fresh water**
- * A **rain jacket** (as this is England!)

Please also:

- * Dress your child in **clothes that cover and protect the skin AND** to apply **sunscreen** before school

Last week was a great first week back at school. The children came back ready and raring to go, and it was wonderful to see them settling into their new classrooms and routines so well.

This week we warmly welcome our new starters in Nursery and F2, and their families.

Please remember, being at school on time everyday is crucial for children's education. Children start learning promptly at 9am and with the structure of our timetables this is when our phonics lessons are taught, which are crucial in your child's reading journey.

If your child is ill, and unable to come to school, please let us know before 10am each day by calling the school office (this includes children in nursery). Outside of office times there is an option to leave a message. If you are unsure if your child is well enough to attend school, you can follow the guidance produced by the NHS "Is my child too ill for school?" - <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>.

Superkids after school club

Due to the popularity of Superkids we are full on some days, with waiting lists. However, sometimes children who are booked in do not come. We appreciate that plans can change at the last minute, but, if you know that you do not need your child's place, please let us know as soon as possible. We can then offer the place to another child.

If you need to make any changes to your booking, please make sure this is done before 12pm on the day of the change. Should you need to change anything after this time, then please call the school office to ensure school gets the correct information.

Bookings can be made via the Superkids email address: superkids@halfway-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Starting Nursery in January

If you are interested in your child starting at our Nursery in January, we now have some open evenings in the diary where you can come and look around. The dates are:

September 19th at 4pm

September 21st at 4pm

September 26th at 4pm

Please call the school office to book onto one of the open evenings. You will also be able to pick up an application form at the same time.

Starting school in September 2024

Even though we are only just welcoming in our new school starters, we are already thinking about those families who will be applying for a school place for September 2024. If you have a child, and are interested in them starting with us, we have a number of open evenings planned for you to come and look around the school. The dates for these are:

October 3rd at 4pm

November 2nd at 4pm

November 16th at 4pm

Please call the school office to book onto one of the open evenings.

Phonics - Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised

This week we are rolling out our new phonics scheme to all of our children. Throughout school, all our phonics will be delivered using the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised scheme. There is lots of information on our school website about this (<https://www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org/phonics>), as well as on the parent section of the Little Wandle website, which is packed with information (including helpful videos) on how to support your child with their learning in phonics.

The website can be accessed via this link: www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/



One of the reasons we love this scheme is that there are multiple opportunities for children to practise their reading throughout the week at school, and then at home. Over the coming weeks, children in F2, year 1 and year 2 will be bringing home a reading record and 2 books. One book is the phonetically decodable book they have been reading in class, and the other is their choice of book to share with you (we like to call this their 'love of reading' book. Please note that they are not expected to be able to read this book independently - it is intended as a sharing book). Children in nursery will be bringing home one book; a 'love of reading' book. Please record their home reading during the week in their 'reading at home record'. Please ensure all school books are returned to school each week, so that other children are able to enjoy them.

Roald Dahl day

As part of developing a 'love of reading' in children, classes have a designated story sharing time each day. Throughout the year, books chosen will reflect a variety of genres and authors. Wednesday 13th September is 'Roald Dahl Day' and each class will be sharing stories or poems by Roald Dahl. Why not talk to your child about this, and your favourite Roald Dahl story, poem or character?



Curriculum Maps

This year we have some new and exciting topics planned for our children. As part of developing their geography skills, this half term all children are learning about themselves and where they live. This week, you will receive your child's curriculum map, which shares with you their learning for this half term, and suggests ways in which you can support them with this at home.

After School Activity Clubs—years 1 and 2

Information about, and application forms for, after school activity clubs will be sent to parents/carers of children in years 1 and 2 shortly.

Nursery - reminders

If you need to contact nursery for any reason, then please call the school office number (including if your child will be absent). If you call the nursery number, this will automatically divert to the school office.

Please ensure that you are on time for your nursery sessions, including collection. If you are late for your session or collecting early, please ring the doorbell. Please be patient waiting for the nursery staff to answer, as they are busy working with the children. In some cases (e.g. if they are outside), they may not hear the bell. If this happens, please call the school office which will be able to help.

PE days - reminder

Children's days for Big PE this year are as follows:

F2 = Tuesday (to begin on Tuesday 19th September)

Year 1 = Friday

Year 2 = Thursday



On these days please send your child to school dressed in their PE kit. Any jewellery should be removed, and long hair tied up.

School lunches - reminder

We work with Taylor Shaw to provide delicious and healthy hot meals, as well as jacket potatoes and sandwiches, for our children. All our children in F2, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals. Should you wish to send your child with a packed lunch, please ensure that it is healthy, and does not contain foods that have any traces of nuts. Also, please ensure that any small round fruits (e.g. grapes, blueberries, cherry tomatoes) are cut in half lengthways to help prevent choking.

Learners of the week

Congratulations to our first learners of the week for this academic year!

	
Skyla and Marshall	Millie and Harry
	
Sammy and Harriet	Heidi and Carter