



Weekly Newsletter

Monday 9th November 2020

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

Supporting Health and Wellbeing

Sheffield City Council's Covid-19 Emergency Assistance Grant

We want to make you aware of a new fund that Sheffield City Council has launched to support people experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. The fund is called the Covid-19 Emergency Assistance Grant and is available to support eligible Sheffield residents who are having difficulties paying for food and other essentials due to Covid-19.

The grant can pay for:

- food and housekeeping (groceries, toiletries, baby essentials etc.)
- essential travel costs (job hunting, starting a new job, medical appointments etc.)
- telephone and broadband (mobile phones, top-ups, broadband charge etc.)
- gas and electricity
- clothing, including school uniforms
- essential furniture/white goods
- rent in advance and deposits for new tenancies
- rent arrears where this is a risk of eviction

It cannot be used for:

- paying loans
- statutory activities/requirements that either the Council or another public-sector organisation is responsible for delivering

For full details, including [eligibility criteria](#), please see -

www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/your-city-council/coronavirus-hub/support-for-people#emergencygrant.

Sheffield Skipathon!

This week the children will be practising their skipping skills in preparation for the 'Sheffield Skipathon'. This aims to help Sheffield Schools Get Active during the current climate. On Friday 13th November, all our children will be participating in a skipping challenge to get fit and have fun!!!!

Nasal Flu Immunisation

If you gave your e-consent for your child to receive their flu immunisation in school today, please look for a letter in your child's book bag from the immunisation team and be aware of the possible side effects, such as -

- Runny or blocked nose
- Headache
- Tiredness
- Loss of appetite **NB—If you have any significant concerns, please see medical advice.**

If your child has not received their vaccination today, you will be able to attend a local community catch up session.

For more information please call 0333 3583 397 or contact the school office to find out about these clinics.

Superkids is open for business!

Whilst we are not able to run our extra curricular after school clubs at the moment like football, choir, karate, gardening etc. our extended services club, Superkids after school service, is running as normal, Monday - Friday until 6pm.

If you want to book a place for your child, the booking form must be completed and sent to Jenette by the Thursday of the week preceding the booking date. If you have any questions, please contact Jenette Rawson on 0114 2470564.

NURSERY NEWS

- Could parents/carers please ring Jenette on 0114 247 0564 before 9 am if your child is going to be absent due to illness or other reasons. Please just leave a message if the phone is busy.
- Children can come dressed in sportswear for Child In Need day on Friday.
- We would be grateful for donations of spare clothes for nursery aged children as we are running low - trousers especially.
- Normally we have a pot for collecting £1.50 voluntary termly contributions. These funds help us to buy special snacks to support our learning, make playdough for the children etc. Given the present restrictions, could you please put any voluntary contributions you feel you are able to make at this time in an envelope and hand it to a nursery member of staff. Thank you for your support :-)

Maths Week for Years 1 and 2 - Rock Out 2020!

As part of our commitment to make maths exciting and high profile in our school, this November we are taking part in a competition for Maths Week England. It is called Rock Out 2020 and takes place online via play.ttrockstars.com.

For every correct answer to a multiplication or division question, your child will earn his/her class a point. The Times Tables Rock Stars platform will calculate the class average (the number of correct answers per pupil in the class who play during the competition hours). Winning classes in the school, and in the country as a whole, will be the ones with the highest average.

All game modes (Gig, Garage, Studio, etc.) will count, but only from games played between 7.30am and 7.30pm on Monday 9th to Saturday 14th November.

In the spirit of the competition, please ensure your child is independent when giving their answers, but by all means encourage and support them too. Whilst we hope our children will enjoy taking part in this challenge, as we know how they love TT Rockstars, there is also no pressure - we do not want it to cause any additional stresses/demands on family time so we suggest no more than half an hour a day outside school hours for those wishing to take part to help limit screen time and support leisure time after school (although we understand that some may play more/less too!).

Thanks for your support, and good luck!

Stay safe and be kind to one another, and thank you all again for your continued support.

As always, please let us know if we can help in any way.

Kind regards,
Paula Bestall



In case you missed this last week....

Remote learning

A big well done and thank you to everyone who has accessed Tapestry so far this half term to share learning between home and school. It has been so lovely to see the super learning going on, and how well children/parents/staff are embracing this :-)

A huge thank as well if you have accessed work teachers have set for your child via Tapestry during a period of time when your child has had to learn at home due to 'stay at home' guidance.

Whilst this approach to remote learning is new, and in line with revised government expectations for schools, the feedback we have received from you so far has been very positive! A huge thank you to the staff, children and parents/carers for all your hard work uploading and sharing learning at home and school on Tapestry!

Please note that our staff are often teaching in school in addition to setting home learning for some children in their class. Where this is the case, they will set learning each day in line with the school day and will feedback/approve home activities throughout the week to move learning on and praise the children for their efforts at home. Please note, though, that feedback cannot be immediate if your child's teacher is also teaching in school.

If you have accessed Remote Learning via Tapestry for your child since he/she returned to school and would like to provide feedback on our approach, please do speak to a member of staff. We would love to hear your thoughts to help us to further develop our approach. 😊

How Does Remote Learning Work?

Where a class, group or small number of pupils need to self-isolate, or in the event of any local restrictions requiring pupils to remain at home, the government now expects schools to have the capacity to offer immediate remote education (this was implemented on 22nd October 2020).

To help ensure that pupils are ready for this eventuality, we sent home packs of paper, pencils and basic classroom support aids such as 100 square/number lines/phonic mats etc. We would like you to keep this pack somewhere safe please in case your child needs to learn at home for a short period of time at any point.

We are committed to our pupils' learning during any period of 'bubble' closure, and would like to share details of our revised plan for 'remote learning' at home going forward.

What learning will be sent home?

The government regulations that have just been implemented expect schools to provide remote learning that is as close to in-school provision as possible so that coronavirus does not have a lasting impact on children's education. Therefore, pupils should receive a similar amount of work to that they would expect to have in school, and this should cover a range of subjects.

As part of their weekly tasks, teachers are planning for remote learning so that, at short notice, work can be sent home to individuals or whole classes. In the event of a class 'bubble' closure, we will provide our children with focussed activities daily linked to the National Curriculum/EYFS curriculum, and share this via Tapestry. This work will be uploaded and checked between 9am-3pm in line with the school day, although we appreciate that parents/carers may also need to balance childcare commitments with remote learning support for their child, so we understand if you need to adjust the times your child accesses and completes the learning outside the school day. Please note that learning will not be posted 12-1pm in line with lunchtime as we know that regular breaks are really important for children's wellbeing, and home learning will not be set for children who are unwell.

The Education Endowment Foundation has found that the effectiveness of remote teaching is determined by many of the same factors as determine the effectiveness of live classroom teaching, and we will try to incorporate some elements into practice where we can. For example, by:

- ensuring pupils receive clear explanations
- supporting growth in confidence with new material through modelled and scaffolded practice
- providing opportunities to apply new knowledge or skills
- enabling pupils to receive feedback on how to progress (teachers will be able to give feedback after you upload your child's learning onto Tapestry. Please note that any contact with staff will happen within the school day to try and support work/

Remote learning cont.

We may use videos to help give clear explanations/to introduce learning and to keep in contact with our children. Short videos will be pre-recorded rather than live lesson streams so our families can access them repeatedly/as they need to, and also as we appreciate that some young children may find it difficult to engage with daily live lessons. We also understand that you may need to manage your own work commitments, and that siblings may need to share devices, so we hope this approach is supportive and provides more flexibility for you.

Links will also be made to online resources you already use such our Bug Club online reading accounts, links to the White Rose scheme for maths and Oak Academy resources for English and foundation subjects (these are online lessons delivered by other teachers and will be closely linked to the curriculum the children are following in school). Class teachers may also choose to send other work to complement what the children are learning in class e.g. Purple Mash may be used for some units of work.

Inclusion

We are committed to providing learning opportunities that are appropriate for all pupils, and teachers will set suitably challenging learning for all children in their class as they would in school. If you have any concerns, please contact your child's class teacher via Tapestry to discuss how learning tasks provided can be adapted to meet the needs of your child.

Organising structured remote teaching for very young pupils, including our Nursery

It is recognised that very young pupils are likely to have particular needs which cannot easily be met in some of the ways described above due to their age. Where a teacher feels this is the case, they may focus on early reading, rhymes and phonics, ensuring access to appropriate online reading books/resources for early readers, structured practice of phonics content etc.

How will it be sent?

Work will be sent via Tapestry accounts and parents/carers will be able to communicate daily with the teacher through this portal. Work will be available from 9am each day (although plans may need to be adapted depending on the circumstances - for example, if the class teacher is unwell, another approach may be needed to meet the needs of the children at home and staffing in school). Your child's teacher/the teacher setting the learning will share a memo with you on Tapestry in the event of a closure to inform you of the approach and the times learning will be updated etc.

We appreciate that some families may not have printers at home. Teachers will be mindful of this and try to set learning that may be completed on the paper/books we sent out before half term (in the basic resource pack sent before half term to support remote learning at home. The teacher will instruct you on what to complete and how to use these). We also want the children to be active and engaged learners at home to minimise the need for too much screen time and support their health and wellbeing. Therefore, practical sessions will also be planned for the children to enjoy whilst developing their skills and knowledge in the full range of subjects that would be delivered within the day at school.

Please activate your Tapestry account now if you haven't already done so! If any family is unable to access online learning through Tapestry, please contact school and we will help resolve the issue for you.

Sharing learning with the teacher for feedback

We invite you to share your child's learning with your child's class teacher. Please use the Tapestry account to upload pictures of completed tasks or photographs of pupils engaged in a particular task, should you wish. Screenshots can also be taken and added as attachments. Sharing the learning with the child's teacher is a positive way to keep your child engaged throughout a period of closure and provides a valuable assessment/feedback opportunity for our teachers.

Teachers may also use quizzes etc. on core content, asking pupils to complete these in a specified time and send them back to help assess progress in their learning, and to plan future sessions.

To support the wellbeing of our staff, especially as they may be teaching in school as well as setting home learning, they will only check and respond to learning posted on Tapestry within their usual school/working hours.

Remote learning cont...

What about Online Safety?

We acknowledge that pupils may be spending more time on screens while we are living in a more virtual world, but we would like to offer guidance to parents/carers on how you can protect your child while online.

- Ensure you set age-appropriate parental controls on devices and internet filters such as appropriate firewalls before you ask your child to use a device at home
- Monitor your child's use of technology and the internet for their safety
- Ensure that you block malicious websites
- Ensure that your internet is safe and secure so learning is not disturbed
- Support the children to access the appropriate materials we set for them on Tapestry including educational clips and videos we share to introduce lessons and learning concepts.

We please ask that you revisit our Acceptable Use Agreement with your child to ensure that pupils are familiar with how to stay safe online at home.

Please contact a member of our Safeguarding Team (Paula Bestall or Rebecca Hughes) to report any safeguarding concerns regarding harmful or upsetting content or incidents of online bullying etc. during periods of remote learning. We will also signpost families to practical support for reporting these concerns should they arise.

Members of the public can also call The Sheffield Safeguarding Hub at any time to discuss any safeguarding concerns about a child or young person on 0114 273 4855.

As always, if a child or young person is in immediate danger you must contact the police on 999.



Skipathon

This week we are practising our skipping skills in preparation for the 'Sheffield Skipathon'. The Skipathon has been organised by Sheffield Schools Get Active as a way of getting all children active during the current climate. Throughout the day on Friday 13th November, all our children will be participating in a skipping challenge. ALL children will need their PE kit in school on this day.

Keep your eyes peeled on twitter for any photos and videos!

National School Meal Week

All week we are celebrating the National School Meal Service and have a change to the regular school meals. Children can opt in to have a school meal every day, or pick and choose from their favourite dishes. The menus were emailed to you on Friday and there will be a copy in the class each morning.

Nasal Flu Immunisation

If your child has received a flu immunisation in school today, please be aware of the possible side effects.

- Very Common – runny/stuffy nose, reduced appetite, tiredness or headache
- Common – fever and muscle aches
- Uncommon – rash, nose bleed or allergic reactions

If you have any significant concerns, please contact your GP.

If your child has not received their vaccination today, you will be able to attend a local community catch up session. For more information please call 0333 3583 397 or contact the school office for a list

Remembrance Day – 11th November

This week children will have a special assembly about Remembrance Day, particularly looking at why we wear poppies to mark this occasion. On Wednesday 11th November, we will be holding a 2-minute silence across school at 11am to pay our respects to all the servicemen and women who have and continue to serve our country.

Children in Need – Reminder

On Friday, 13th November, we are supporting Children in Need in a number of ways. You can choose which activities your child takes part in and pay for all of these through ParentPay (Please note, we will not be accepting cash in school). All the money we receive will be donated directly to Children in Need.

- * Children can dress in PJ'S or Pudsey clothes – pay £1
- * Guess the bear's name - pay 50p
- * Guess how many sweets in a jar – pay 50p

During the day, all our children will enter a competition to design a Children in Need face covering and the top 3 will win a prize!

Please make sure that whatever your child wears to school they are able to get changed into their PE kit in order to take part in the Skipathon.

You will be able to pay for your child to take part in these events until 9:30am on Friday 13th November.

Y7 Applications for September 2021 - Reminder

The deadline for applying for your child's Y7 place is 30th November.