



Weekly Newsletter

Monday 14th September 2020

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well and have enjoyed the lovely sunny weather this weekend. Thank you for sending your children in today with sun cream, hats and water bottles in hand. It looks like this will be needed over the next few days too please :-)

I am pleased to report that all children in our main school are now back and are doing incredibly well. Even after a couple of days at home over the weekend, they skipped into school this morning with smiles on their faces and were straight back into class in their new routines again. A huge thank you for your support with timings etc. and for only arriving a minute or two before your child's start/end time. This really does help us to keep numbers on site to a minimum, along with the one way system that helps everyone to socially distance (whilst keeping our children away from the busy road at the side of school).

The last few of our new nursery children are also joining us over the next few days and, whilst each class has a separate start/end time, you may notice the yard is a little busier than it has been over the last week or two. With confirmed cases of Covid-19 rising across the UK, please do continue to keep your distance from others on the yard, and encourage your children to stay with you before/after class. Keeping our class bubbles separate really is important to try and protect everyone in our school community. Thank you for your support with this.

Our Curriculum Approach for 2020-21 - Routine, Relationships, Relevance and Reflection

Thank you to those of you who joined one of our Zoom meetings over the past couple of weeks to hear how well the classes have settled in so far, and to find out about more about your child's new year group.

You may have heard a lot of talk nationally about a 'Recovery Curriculum' in schools. This phrase is being used to describe how schools will support pupils after the period of teaching and learning missed in school as a result of the Covid-19 crisis.

At Halfway Nursery and Infant School, we are considering the impact of Covid-19 on education and are developing our curriculum plans with careful thought and clear determination to support both children's emotional wellbeing and their progress. The 'Recovery curriculum' we are planning for 2020-21 will nurture and guide our children as they reintegrate back into school, and support them to move forward together, and will be based on routines, relationships, relevance and reflection.

Our first two priorities have been to re-establish routines for the children and re-build relationships in our school community. As always, we maintain the belief that relationships are at the heart of good teaching. Our absolute priority is to reach out and continue to welcome our children and families into school, and to make time to listen to children and their experiences to support them pastorally as well as academically.

Now the vast majority of our children are back in school and are adapting brilliantly to their new routines, we are prioritising what the children need to learn and the skills and knowledge they need to move forward rapidly. To inform this curriculum planning, we have started to assess each child informally (through tasks and activities where the children are not aware we are assessing them!) at this point in time in their learning. This will enable us to plan a curriculum which is relevant for them. Our planning will be informed by the assessment of our pupils' starting points to address any gaps in their knowledge and skills.

We aim to deliver a relevant curriculum which hooks the children's interest with exciting and engaging topics, as we always have done. We will be teaching an ambitious and broad curriculum in all subjects from the start of the autumn term, whilst making use of time to cover missed content. The government recognises that substantial modification may be needed to the curriculum at the start of the year, with teaching time prioritised to address gaps in pupils' knowledge, and schools should return to their normal curriculum by no later than summer term 2021. Whilst continuing to offer a broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils which will include all subjects, there will be an emphasis on -

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development incl. wellbeing and pastoral needs
- Communication and Language incl. early reading, phonics, writing and increasing vocabulary
- Maths
- Physical Development/Education

The Recovery Curriculum will enable children to re-engage in learning and gain the confidence needed to settle back into school ready to learn the academic subject content they need to cover. Our overarching curriculum vision will be to take a holistic approach which is personalised to individual needs with time made for children who require additional support, whilst maintaining an ambitious curriculum for all our children.

The final element in our approach towards the curriculum in 2020-21 will be reflection. We hope it will provide a safe space for the children to express any anxieties or questions they may have including supporting children to explore any feelings they may have experienced, including loss of friendship, social interaction, routine or freedoms etc. We appreciate that the children's needs will change over the course of the year, as will the approach we need to take in school, and, therefore, we will be reflective in our practice. We shall also build in time for the children to reflect on their own experiences, their wellbeing and their learning. We are also working to update remote/online learning opportunities that will be available should a child or bubble have to self-isolate, or if there is a local lockdown.

Health and Safety Update

What will schools do if a pupil shows symptoms of Covid-19 at school?

The government has published appropriate guidance. If a school believes a child may have symptoms, the child will be supervised out of class whilst parents/carers of the child are contacted so they can collect them and take him/her home. The parent/carer will be advised to arrange a test for the child showing symptoms and all household members should isolate, as explained in the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

There are a number of local test centres within Sheffield for people with symptoms of Covid-19. Tests can be arranged by calling 119, or can be booked online at nhs.uk/coronavirus etc. People can also order home test kits to be sent directly to them. To book an appointment or order a home kit, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

New campaign to prevent spread of coronavirus

The 'Hands. Face. Space' public information campaign urges everyone to continue to wash their hands, cover their face and make space to control infection rates and avoid a second peak.



Washing your hands

Coronavirus can live for an extended period of time on certain surfaces. Washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using hand sanitiser, regularly throughout the day will reduce the risk of catching or passing on the virus. Whilst we are currently opening gates for you so you do not have contact with any 'touch points' on the school grounds, all children and adults in the building will be asked to clean their hands as they enter the premises.

Covering your face

Coronavirus is carried in the air by tiny respiratory droplets that transport the virus. Larger droplets can land on other people or on surfaces they touch while smaller droplets can stay in the air indoors. Face coverings reduce the dispersion of these droplets, meaning if you are carrying the virus you are less likely to spread it when you exhale.

Making space

Transmission of the virus is most likely to happen within 2 metres, with risk of increased transmission at shorter distances. Be mindful of this and please make space for others as this has a powerful impact when it comes to containing the spread.

'Hands. Face. Space' are simple but vital behaviours that have the power to protect the public from both the short and potential long-term impact of coronavirus.

Testing

The public are encouraged to continue to be vigilant of coronavirus symptoms which include a new continuous cough, high temperature, or a loss or change in your sense of taste or smell. If you, or someone you know, displays any symptoms, no matter how mild, please get a free test by calling 119 or visiting NHS.uk.

The Department for Education has worked closely with Public Health England (PHE) and NHS Test and Trace to try and minimise the potential risks of spread. A key part of this is the appropriate use of testing to help identify people who are positive and, subsequently, their contacts.

Crucial to the overall support for schools and colleges is ensuring that everyone with coronavirus symptoms has access to a test as soon as they develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell, or
- they are recommended to get tested by a healthcare provider (e.g. GP or nurse).

If a pupil, student or staff member develops one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms described above, only they should be tested. There is no need for their households to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic. Unless a pupil, student or staff member has one of the three main coronavirus symptoms, they should only be tested if instructed otherwise by the local authority, health protection team or their GP. As schools and colleges across England return, pupils and students may feel unwell, for example with a sore throat, stomach upset or a headache. These pupils and students do not need to book a test but may need to stay off school, and their parents seek medical advice through their GP or pharmacist as usual.

Breakfast and Afterschool arrangements

Breakfast Club and Superkids After School Club are both now operating again, with Breakfast Club now starting at 7:45 am on a temporary basis whilst staggered start/end times need to be in place in school. All bookings MUST be made in advance please via Jenette on 2470564 as we need to staff and arrange resources etc. for the different bubbles of children using our extended services. We also need an accurate record in case we need to contact anyone following Contact Tracing procedures.

Please complete a booking form each week (any previous bookings made prior to September will no longer be held as we need up to date information of childcare needs and contact details etc. for the current school year).

Parents/carers dropping children off at Breakfast Club—please use the Station Road Gate to drop children off before 8am (NB—the one way system starts at 8am). Please observe social distancing on the narrow pathways around school.

Parents/carers collecting children from Superkids after school will again need to use the Station Road gate and come to the back door of school at your collection time, and then telephone to inform staff you have arrived (NB—the one way system ceases at 3:30pm when all children/parents are off site). We will put a sign on the back door of school with the Superkids phone number on for you to contact us when you arrive and we are able to bring your child to you at the back door.

Quick reminder about school start/end times

Staggered start and end times are now in place for each class bubble group to minimise numbers on the school yard, and to help everyone to socially distance (these arrangements are in place for the foreseeable future, although we believe they are only temporary at this stage of the pandemic). I want to say a massive thank you here to parents/carers as your support has been amazing over the past few days as we have introduced this!

Why are staggered start/end times important? The recent evidence reinforces the importance of social distancing between adults to limit the risk of infection now schools are fully open, so it is vital that measures are in place to manage this at collection and drop off times. We ask you to wait outside your child's classroom a couple of minutes before your child's start/end time, adhere to social distancing measures (markings are on the fences and on narrow paths to help with this) and politely ask you to leave site as soon as you have dropped off/collected your child.

Class/Bubble Name	Year Group	Teacher	Start time	End time
Nursery	F1	Harley Maloney	AM 8:15/PM 12:15	AM 11:15/PM 3:15
Gruffalo	F2	Miss Hughes	8:45 AM	2:55 PM
Elmer	F2	Mrs Timmons	8:25 AM	2:35 PM
Rainbow Fish	Y1	Miss Dale	8:30 AM	2:40 PM
Hungry Caterpillars	Y1	Miss Kay/Mrs Hibberd	8:40 AM	2:50 PM
Enormous Crocodiles	Y2	Mrs Jordan	8:35 AM	2:45 PM
Crafty Chameleons	Y2	Mrs Briggs/Mrs Bettinson	8:20 AM	2:30 PM

Thank you for your support,

Paula Bestall