



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 29th November 2021

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
What's Happening this Week?	F2 Big PE Day		Y2 Big PE Day Y1 Christmas Song and Dance Club 9:30am School tour for F2s due to start school in 2022	Y1 Big PE Day Y2 Football Club	Nursery Meet The Teacher 9.15 am to 10.45am
And Next Week ?	F2 Big PE Day Children can bring in their Christmas card from today. Toy collection for Mission Christmas		Y2 Big PE Day Y1 Christmas Song and Dance Club	Y1 Big PE Day Y2 Football Club Nursery Meet The Teacher 9.15 am to 10.45am	Save The Children Christmas Jumper Day

School attendance figures

Attendance for the week ending

Class	Attendance (%)
Enormous Crocodiles	97.6
Crafty Chameleons	76.1
Rainbow Fish	83.9
Hungry Caterpillars	95.5
Gruffalos	82.1
Elmers	92.9

Overall attendance for the week was 88.3%

Home Learning PE Challenge

Challenge: How many times can you jump side to side over a cereal box in 30 seconds? Make sure you use both feet to jump over the box.

Equipment: Cereal box or other similar safe item, such as a cushion

Physical fact: Practising jumping from side to side is really important for your balance and stability. It is also good cardio exercise.

Nursery News

Nursery would be grateful for donations of unwanted plastic/wooden Christmas decorations.

The Pedestrian Crossing is here!

After a very long wait, we are so excited to say that we have heard that the pedestrian crossing on Station Road is finally here, and should be fully operational!

A few of our children and parents/carers who were on their way to school this morning were the first to use the crossing after the big 'switch on', and, with their permission, were photographed with the local councillors who have campaigned for this project to go ahead for many years. A huge thank you to everyone who has helped to secure this project!

I hope you have all had a fantastic weekend and enjoyed the unexpected snowy Sunday! After a wintry start to the week, our staff and children arrived safely at school this morning. Thank you for your support today - the staggered arrival at school this morning ensured that we could keep school open today whilst keeping everyone as safe as we could as they made their way to school.

Information for all education and childcare settings on new measures in response to the identification of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK

On Saturday 27 November, the Prime Minister announced new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK - for full information please see <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

The new measures are being introduced by the government as a precaution to slow down the spread of the variant whilst gathering more information, and the government will continue to keep this under review as the situation develops.

As part of the measures, the government announced revised face covering control measures yesterday which apply to all adults in education and childcare settings. Therefore, **face coverings will now be worn by staff and visitors** (unless exempt) in indoor communal areas within our school e.g. staff room, corridors, meetings etc.

The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place. In addition to these, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be contacted directly by the NHS and asked to isolate for 10 days, regardless of vaccination status or age.

Covid-19 update from the Sheffield Director of Public Health, Greg Fell on 'How to help take care of our family and friends this winter'

(please note that the update below was sent to school last week and, therefore, may be updated again after the government issued guidance yesterday)

1. Get vaccinated against Covid

Greg Fell stated that, "This is the single most effective thing you can do to protect yourself and others". Many clinics across Sheffield are offering the vaccination (<http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination>).

2. Get your booster jab

Protection from the vaccine may decrease over time. You will be sent an invite to have a booster six months after your second dose, but eligible adults can also book a booster at [Book or manage a booster dose of the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

3. Get a flu jab

Remember the basic advice

Greg's email stated, "Face Coverings really help and have the added benefit of reducing transmission of other respiratory viruses. Keep your distance and focus on better ventilation in indoor spaces. Work from home if you can and reduce your contacts. If going to high risk settings, or visiting elderly relatives, take an Lateral Flow Test (LFD) beforehand. If you have symptoms, and you suspect you have Covid, arrange a PCR test at [Get tested for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk), or by calling 119."

Be patient with the NHS

"If you are finding it difficult to access care, the NHS is working under incredible pressure. Help medical staff prioritise patients with the most urgent needs by first seeking advice from a local pharmacy or 111. Only call 999 or attend A&E in an emergency."

Free food vouchers for the Christmas holiday

Sheffield City Council has confirmed its plans to provide food vouchers for 30,000 children and young people across the city for the Christmas holiday.

The Government has provided a Household Support Grant to assist with food and energy costs over the winter period. Sheffield City Council recognises that many families continue to face financial difficulties because of the pandemic and changes to Universal Credit, and know that Christmas is a particularly difficult time for families, with extra costs for food and energy.

A £50 food voucher will be sent to the following groups to help over the Christmas holiday:

- Families who claim income based Free School Meals (FSM)
- Families who get income assessed Early Years Support (2-4 Year Olds)
- Young people leaving their care setting (Care Leavers)

The Council's Plan

The Council has chosen to continue to use Edenred as the supplier of the vouchers as schools and parent/carers are familiar with the two-step process involved in downloading the vouchers.

The Council aims to have the voucher letters sent out to eligible families by second class post, and parents will receive them w/c Monday 6th December. The letter will include the website link for Edenred, and clear instructions on how to download the voucher.

Any child/young person that becomes eligible for a food voucher between 26th November and 19th December will be sent a voucher letter over the Christmas holiday period.

The Process

As before, parents/carers need to go to the following website to redeem their October vouchers - www.selectyourcompliment.co.uk/grocery

Enter your unique 16-digit e-Code and select the chosen supermarket. Edenred give a choice of 10 supermarkets - Aldi, Tesco, Asda, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, M&S, McColl's, Iceland and Farmfoods.

Parents/Carers are able to download their vouchers for more than one supermarket.

The downloaded E-Gift Card/Voucher will arrive by email within 24 hours. If you can't find this, please check your Junk/Spam folder.

Please note that codes need to be activated within 3 months or they will be cancelled. Once you have claimed your voucher on the Edenred website, the voucher will be valid for 12 months.

Where can families get further help?

The FSM Voucher helpline will be available on 0114 2734567, option 4, option 3, and can offer help to parents experiencing difficulties with their e-Codes or with general FSM enquiries (you can also contact school in term time as we may be able to help too!).

Parents/carers can also contact Edenred directly with an enquiry about an eCode or voucher at freeschoolmealsparentscarers@edenred.com or telephone 0333 400 5932

Please note: If you are facing financial hardship, there is free advice and support available at www.citizensadvice.org.uk or call on 0808 278 7820. You can also find further information about support at www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/your-city-council/coronavirus-hub/support-for-people

ANOTHER REMINDER OF OUR CHRISTMAS PLANS 2021

Our whole staff team is committed to making Christmas 2021 magical at Halfway Nursery Infant School! Our aims are both to help make this season jolly and bright for our fabulous children, and also for us to join forces with others in our local area to make a difference in our local community this Christmas time.

We have planned opportunities that we hope will bring joy to many, whilst continuing to keep everyone as safe as we can. Greg Fell (Director of Public Health in Sheffield) recently wrote to parents/carers and stated, "Like the rest of the country, Sheffield is now seeing higher case rates in school age pupils, and this is to be expected. We want to ensure that we continue to manage transmission of the virus as much as possible and reduce the number of cases. This means that, unfortunately, some things are not completely back to 'normal'. I realise that many of you will be disappointed as we approach Christmas that schools may not always be able to put in place some of the things that you are familiar with happening around this time of year. Settings have been asked to continue to reduce the numbers of events and meetings involving large numbers of pupils, parents/carers and staff. This means that parents' evenings may run virtually and, as Christmas approaches, schools will be carefully considering if events can go ahead. The Council understands that this will be disappointing for some, but stressed that it is an important measure to help reduce transmission of COVID-19."

All schools are different and, therefore, the Christmas plans for each school may vary - for example, each school may be managing different Covid-19 case rates and each also has different logistical/practical considerations to make as they plan events (such as available space, and whether spaces are well ventilated and meet risk assessment requirement for large groups etc.). We love Christmas and opportunities to share the spirit of it with our families, and have taken into account our own setting as we planned lots of lovely events that minimise the risk, but also, really importantly, also maximise the FUN for our children too!

There will not be any charges made by school for any of the events as we want all our children to be free to enjoy the festive fun! We hope you agree that the children will have a lovely time and will, hopefully, enjoy a little magic at Halfway Nursery Infant School this Christmas!

Please see a timetable of events attached to this newsletter for useful dates and times etc. for you to plan the festive season.

Please note—If any changes are needed to our plans e.g. due to revised guidance to schools, the Omicron variant etc. we will give you as much notice as possible.

Giving to others at Christmas time

As a staff team, we would like to try and support local families in need and so staff are invited to donate new toys to local children/families this year instead of sending one another Christmas cards or exchanging more extravagant Secret Santa gifts. If you are able to/feel that you would also like to donate a new toy for a local child and support a local charity as they distribute toys, please bring your donations (in original packaging with any safety labels still attached please) to school next week - 6th to 9th December. You will be able to put them in the PlayPod when you drop your children off (the blue shed in the yard) where they will be quarantined ready for distribution.

Each class will also be invited to work together to bring in donations by 10th December to help make special Christmas dinner hampers for a local food bank/charity to deliver to a local family in need this Christmas time (more information overleaf about the items they would love to receive to help make the hampers). If you are having difficulties and would also like some information about the support and services of local food banks, such as these Christmas hampers, please contact me on 0114 2482360.

Thank you for all your continued support!

Paula Bestall

Headteacher

CHRISTMAS DIARY

w\b Monday 6 December	Children can bring in their Christmas cards from today. To help protect the environment, children may want to bring just one special card to everyone in the class, that can be displayed in the classroom
w\b Monday 6 December	Christmas Hamper appeal. Each class will put together a Christmas Box for a local family to enjoy. If you'd like to donate, please look out for more information about this over the coming weeks
w\b Monday 6 December	Toy collection: If you would like to donate a new and unwrapped toy, please put it in the PlayPod (the blue shed in the yard) by 9 December
Thursday 9 December	Toy collection: please bring any toy donations by today
Friday 10 December	1. S20 Food Bank/Westfield Big Local 'Christmas Dinner Hamper' food items in school by this date please 2. Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day Children can wear a Christmas jumper if they wish, or other non-uniform if they don't have a Christmas jumper (no 'fancy dress' outfits please) If you are able to, please donate via: https://christmas.savethechildren.org.uk/fundraising/cjd210018078
Monday 13 December, 4.30pm	Nursery Zoom pre-filmed Christmas performance – a link will be sent to the email address we use for sending newsletters
Tuesday 14 December, 9.15am	Y2 Mini Carol Concert —in the yard, weather permitting!
Tuesday 14th December	Nursery Christmas Party Day – morning and afternoon sessions. Children can wear a Christmas jumper or party clothes (no 'fancy dress' outfits please)
Tuesday 14 December, 4pm	Y2 Zoom pre-filmed Christmas performance – a link will be sent to the email address we use for sending newsletters
Wednesday 15 December, 9.15am	Y1 Mini Carol Concert —in the yard, weather permitting!
Wednesday 15 December	Christmas Dinner Day for all children. Children to wear school uniform, but they can bring a Christmas hat, headband, etc. to wear on their head.
Wednesday 15 December, 4pm	Y1 Zoom pre-filmed Christmas performance – a link will be sent to the email address we use for sending newsletters
Thursday 16 December, 2.30pm	F2 Mini Carol Concert —in the yard, weather permitting!
Thursday 16 December, 4pm	F2 Zoom pre-filmed Christmas performance – a link will be sent to the email address we use for sending newsletters
Friday 17 December	School Christmas Party Day (F2-Y2). Children can wear a Christmas jumper or party clothes (no 'fancy dress' outfits please) Last day of term.
*NB - Please don't send your child in 'fancy dress' for any of the non-uniform days - the children find using the toilet a bit more difficult in fancy dress outfits.	

CHRISTMAS DINNER HAMPERS

Christmas may be a difficult time for you this year. Money may be a little bit tighter than normal. Therefore, Westfield Big Local and the S20 Food Bank are partnering together again to provide a Christmas meal hamper for a £5 donation to any individual or family who may need it, with the hope that it takes a just little of the stress out of this Christmas for anyone in the S20 area.

The plan is to be able to deliver a hamper that is full of ingredients needed to create the perfect Christmas lunch. The hamper is hopefully big enough to feed roughly up to 6 people.

The hampers consist of:

- Soup
- A frozen turkey
- Stuffing
- Gravy
- Fresh vegetables (potatoes, brussel sprouts, carrots & peas)
- Christmas pudding
- Custard
- A sparkling juice
- Mince pies
- Christmas Crackers
- Biscuits
- Defrosting and cooking instructions for the turkey



If you think that money may be a bit light for you this Christmas and would like to receive one of these hampers, for collection or delivery on Thursday 23rd December 2021 then please contact Paula Beckett

paula.beckett@biglocalwestfield.org.uk

Tel: 07837 829 399



Applications will need to be received by Friday 10th December 2021 to give us plenty of time to source the necessary items.



if you would be willing to donate some of the above items to us in order to make the hampers please bring them to Westfield Community Centre, S20 8ND