



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 6th December 2021

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
What's Happening this Week?	Toy collection for Mission Christmas in the PlayPod every morning this week Elf Express postal service Christmas Dinner Hamper donations in please			Last day to bring a new toy to donate to Mission Christmas	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day! £1 donation suggested please.
And Next Week ?	4.30 pm Nursery Zoom Christmas performance	9:15am Mini outdoor Carol Concert—Y2 Nursery Christmas Party Day – morning and afternoon sessions. Children can wear a Christmas jumper or party clothes (no 'fancy dress' outfits please) 4pm Y2 Zoom Christmas performance	9:15am Mini outdoor Carol Concert—Y1 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. 4pm Y1 Zoom Christmas performance	2:30pm Mini outdoor Carol Concert—F2 4pm F2 Zoom Christmas performance	School Christmas Party Day. Children can wear a Christmas jumper or party clothes (no 'fancy dress' outfits please) Last day of the Autumn Term – school breaks up for Christmas today



Attendance for the week ending 3rd December 2021:

Class	Attendance (%)
Mrs Jordan	93.9
Mrs Hibberd	74.8
Miss Dale	86.8
Mrs Bettinson/Mrs Briggs	83.3
Miss Hughes/ Mrs Hipkin	87.7
Mrs Timmons	86.3

Overall attendance for the week was 85.6%

Upcoming Diary Dates



w\b Monday 6th December	Children can bring cards for the Elf Express
w\b Monday 6th December	S20 Foodbank\Westfield Big Local Christmas Dinner Hamper donations in class please (see overleaf)
Monday 6th— Thursday 9th December	Mission Christmas toy donation If you would like to donate a new toy, please put it in the PlayPod (the blue shed in the yard)
Friday 10th December	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day



UPCOMING INSET DAY

A quick reminder that school and nursery will be closed for staff training on Tuesday 4th January 2022.

The children therefore start back on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

An overview of Christmas Diary Dates/arrangements

'Elf Express' post starts today!

The Y2 children did a great job preparing our Elf Express Postal trolley last week (thank you children!) and the trolley was heaving today with Christmas cards that the children have spent a lot of time, love and care preparing for their friends over the weekend.

Our postal trolley will be out under the canopy each morning this week for children to post their Christmas card/s to each other. Each class in school has a named tray on the trolley so the children can make sure their cards go to the right place! Our Nursery class also has its own Christmas post box in the Nursery room.

The cards are then delivered with the afternoon registers (after a 4 hour 'paper quarantine' for Covid safety) so this can be as safe, as well as much fun, as possible!



Thank you!

Thank you to the parents/carers who donated pre-loved Christmas trees and plastic/wooden Christmas decorations to school - these have made so many children (and staff) smile and start to feel very festive indeed!

Christmas Dinner Hamper donations

We are helping local charities such as the S20 Foodbank and Westfield Big Local to collect items together to create Christmas Dinner hampers for local families. If you would like to help by donating an item, please send your child into class with it this week. The Foodbank will collect donations this Friday (10th December) and will create Christmas Dinner hampers for local families with everything we collect.

The items they are collecting to make these hampers are:

- **Soup**
- **A frozen turkey**
- **Stuffing**
- **Gravy**
- **Fresh vegetable**
- **Christmas Pudding**
- **Custard**
- **A sparkling juice**
- **Mince pies**
- **Christmas crackers**
- **Biscuits**

Zoom with Santa!

We are so excited that the big man himself has made time in his very busy schedule this season to spend a day contacting all our classes in school. They have been very good boys and girls this year (and the staff have been on their best behaviour too!), so he jumped at the chance to visit us all virtually on Thursday 16th December (all being well!). We would love for the children to be able to talk to Santa and ask him questions and will be offering this through live Zoom sessions again this year.

To ensure online safety is taken into account:

- each teacher will host this call for the whole class and privacy settings will be applied;
- the Zoom calls will be led and fully supervised by classroom staff (...which they are so excited about!);
- no personal data will be shared on the Zoom call other than the class name;
- live sessions will not be recorded;
- the special person who will be Zooming in to see us is very well known to the school, and has therefore undergone all safeguarding checks.

As this is not being recorded and no data is being shared, the photograph permissions we have in school already covers this Zoom with Santa session, but if you would **not** like your child to take part, please inform us by Friday 10th December.

There will be no charge for this as we would love for all our children to see Santa this Christmas, and we hope that the children will feel very merry indeed next Thursday when their special call takes place...!

Christmas Celebrations on Zoom

You will receive a link in preparation for the Zoom 'premiere' of your class Christmas Celebration performance (timetable shown below). The links should not be shared please and we will need to check that we know the people joining the meeting before inviting them into the Zoom call. This is for the children's safety.

Nursery	4.30 pm Monday 13th December
F2	4 pm Thursday 16th December
Y1	4 pm Wednesday 15th December
Y2	4 pm Tuesday 14th December

Please remember:

- To log in with a recognisable surname, and also ensure that the camera is on so we can see you/recognise everyone in the audience;
- No recording of the Zoom call please as we will, hopefully, be able to share this again after the Zoom meeting on Tapestry (...technology willing and if parental permissions allow).
- Please Zoom from a shared family area such as a lounge or dining room etc. (Sheffield online safety guidelines recommends avoiding Zooming from a child's personal space such as a bedroom)
- Get those Christmas accessories/jumpers out and hot chocolate on ready for the performance (...optional!)

See you all there!

Christmas presents for local children w/c 6th December

Christmas definitely is the time of giving this year at Halfway, and we are collecting new and packaged toys this week for Mission Christmas/to donate to families who need a little extra support this Christmas time.

Our staff team have decided to buy gifts for this very worthy cause this year instead of sending cards etc. as we want to help make a difference to children in our community. If you would like to join us as we support this very worthy case, and if you feel able to donate a small gift this year, all donations are very welcome. Please pop your gifts into the collection point in the PlayPod (big blue shed on the yard) which will be open each morning for any donations.

Thank you so much for the donations we have received so far!

Christmas Jumper Day for Save for Children – Friday 10th December

Children can wear a Christmas jumper if they wish. This is the only activity where we ask you to consider whether you are able to give a voluntary £1 donation, to Save the Children. If you are unable to make a donation, please do not worry – all children are able to take part. As we need to avoid handling cash, we have a Just Giving page at <https://christmas.savethechildren.org.uk/fundraising/cjd210018078>

(although Just Giving will only accept donations of £2 or more, so why not team up with another parent/carer to make your donation?)

Christmas Dinner Day—Wednesday 15th December

Children to wear school uniform please, and can bring a Christmas hat, headband, tinsel accessory to wear on their head.

Party Days – Tuesday 14th December (Nursery) and Friday 17th December (F2, Y1, Y2)

Children can wear a Christmas jumper or party clothes. School will provide individually wrapped food such as a bag of crisps, fruit and packet of sweets per child (for safety—food will not be shared by the children to minimise risks of Covid-19 infection). All classes will have party games and dancing, a film and other Christmassy activities.

A big thank you to the ‘Friends of Halfway Nursery Infant School’ group for their support to make our Christmas activities possible and free of charge to families, and also thank you for all your support too!

A new ‘date for the diary’... Winter ‘Holiday Activities with Food Programme’ (HAF)

Dec 18th-23rd 2021

HAF Voluntary Sector Coordinators are working with a range of providers across Sheffield programming activities (including healthy food) during the school Christmas Holidays. These activities are open to children who are **eligible for ‘benefits based’ free school meals**. Activities will range from football to arts/craft/cultural activities, cooking, and lots more.

A healthy meal will be provided at all activities. The HAF programme is a fantastic opportunity for eligible young people to have a fun filled engaging Christmas break.

Please note children in receipt of universal free school meals are not eligible for this programme.

Parents/carers can register and book activities at <https://sheffieldhealthyholidays.org>. There is also a dedicated phone line to handle any queries families may have with using the online registration/booking system - **0114 2039303** or email hafprogramme2021@sheffield.gov.uk

We are very much looking forward to sharing the next two weeks of Christmas season in our school with you!

Other updates...

Milk orders for after Christmas

Once children reach the age of 5, they are no longer entitled to free school milk unless they receive **income-related** free school meals (whilst all infant aged children are entitled to **Universal Free School Meals**, only children eligible for **income-related** free school meals are able to claim free milk).

If you think your child may be entitled to **income-related** free school meals but are not currently in receipt of them, please go to <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schoolmeals>. Applying is easy, but there are lots of benefits such as food vouchers over holidays, free holiday activities etc!

For children who are already 5 - the cost of milk for next term (Spring: January to Easter) is £9.12. You will get a text message with a link to a form to complete to let us know whether your child would like milk next term or not. Once you have submitted the form you can click on the link to pay (if your child is not entitled to **income-related** free school meals).

Children who will become 5 during the Spring term (January to Easter) - you will get a letter with instructions for paying for milk after their 5th birthday if they want milk after this date.

Children who are not 5 until after Easter - you don't need to do anything: your child will continue to receive their free milk.

Children who are entitled to income-related free school meals - you don't need to do anything: your child will continue to receive their free milk.

If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs Tatham in the School Office on 0114 2482360.

Secondhand School Uniform

We keep a range of sizes of secondhand logoed uniform (sweatshirts, jumpers, cardigans, polo shirts, fleece jackets and coats) which you can buy from the school or nursery offices. All items are £1 each, which can be paid online.

We welcome donations of logoed uniform in good condition.

So, if you want to:

- Help save the planet by recycling
- Help raise funds for school
- Save money on your child's school uniform
- Have a clear-out of too-small uniform

please consider buying from, or donating to, our secondhand uniform 'shop'.

(We also welcome donations of non-logoed uniform, such as trousers and skirts, and items such as socks, tights and pants; any items we cannot use or don't have room for are donated to charity shops).

This week's PE Challenge

Challenge: Step up onto the step, one foot after the other. Then step back down onto the floor, one foot after the other. This counts as one step-up. How many step-ups can you do in 30 seconds?

Equipment: The bottom step of the stairs, a doorstep or a low bench; don't use anything that is higher than the middle of your shin.

Physical fact: Step-ups use lots of the muscles of your lower body, such as your glutes, hamstrings and calves. They will help improve your strength for things like running, swimming and cycling.

Covid-19 Update

Tracing close contacts and isolation

Close contacts in schools are now identified by NHS Test and Trace.

All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will be contacted directly and required to self-isolate immediately and asked to book a PCR test. They will be informed by the local health protection team or NHS Test and Trace if they fall into this category and provided details about self-isolation.

Covid-19 updated guidance for schools from Public Health Sheffield

- Anyone feeling unwell should not attend the setting. Anyone with COVID symptoms should have a PCR test straight away.
- Everyone should continue to practice good infection and prevention control, including regularly washing hands.
- Ensure increased ventilation.
- Request that adults/visitors attending any events wear face coverings, and following DfE guidance for staff and visitors on face coverings.
- Recommendation that adults and secondary age pupils take a LFT prior to attending any event (if required, some events also may need to be cancelled at short notice).

COVID Financial Help

The Household Support fund launched at the beginning of November and replaces the Local Authority Hardship Fund.

If you know someone who is struggling to afford essentials like food or heating payments, and have exhausted other benefit options this fund could help them.

Winter 2021 Covid-19 financial help is available, including the Household support fund and also the £500 Test & Trace Payment.

Follow the link below to find out more about the Household support fund and how to apply for it...

https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/your-city-council/coronavirus-hub/support-for-people?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=#emergencygrant?

Kindest regards,

Paula Bestall

Headteacher