



# Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 27th February 2023

[www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org](http://www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org)

**Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.**



Attendance for the week ending 24th February 2023

Class	Attendance (%)
Miss Clewes	92.7
Mrs Hibberd	90.9
Miss Dale	95.2
Mr Folmer	87.9
Mrs Stanton/ Mrs Hipkin	93.3
Mrs Timmons	90.6

Whole school attendance = 91.8%

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

## Learners of the week

Congratulations to last week's Learners of the Week

Elmers - Lucas and Honey

Gruffalos - Reuben and Sophie

Rainbow Fish - William and Jacob

Hungry Caterpillars - Briar and Oscar

Enormous Crocodiles - Sophia and Freddie

Crafty Chameleons - Zak and Adam

## Nursery News

Nursery would be very grateful for donations of clean, empty 1 or 2 pint plastic milk cartons so that we can use them as watering cans for watering our nursery garden.

Could we please ask that you check your child's school jumper to ensure the correct one has been taken home.

## Staying safe

Please remember to keep your children with you when exiting the school site in order to keep them safe from the road and cars outside of school.

## Big PE days this half term

Year 2's Big PE day is **Wednesday**—dance with Jess Fulton

Year 1's Big PE day is **Thursday**—for athletics and team building games

F2's (Reception) Big PE day is **Tuesday**

## World Book Day - reminders

Don't forget that this Thursday is World Book Day. The day will be a celebration of all things to do with reading and stories! We are inviting children to come to school dressed as a character from a book, or to wear pyjamas (no onesies please). We are also inviting you to join in with our Book Bake Off! Please bring your book bake with you on Thursday and hand it in at the school office. Please see the information below for more details.

# World Book Day

This year's World Book Day will take place on Thursday 2nd March, and we have been busy thinking of ways to make the day fun and exciting.

### Dressing up/Pyjamas

Children are welcome to attend school on the day either dressed as their favourite character from a story (please bring the book along too with their name in) or wearing pyjamas. We kindly ask for no 'onesies' or superhero costumes as these can be difficult to get in and out of for toileting.

Throughout the day children will take part in lots of fun reading sessions, sharing stories, making puppets and much more!

### Book Bake Off!

In addition to dressing up, this year we are bringing back the 'Book Bake Off Competition!'

To enter, all you need to do is select one of your favourite books and get creative with something to bake, linked to the story. For example, last time Mrs Timmons made an Elmer the elephant cake with skittles hidden inside whilst Miss Wyle made Handa's surprise including the basket of fruit from cake wrapped in fondant!

Get creative and make sure you bring your book bake with you on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Please bring all entries to the main school building and we will create a space in the library for them. Ensure you attach your child's name and class to their bake to help us in the judging. The bakes will be displayed in the hall in the afternoon for each class to come and see. Don't worry - they won't be touched or eaten, and you'll be able to collect them at the end of the day to take home and enjoy.

We will announce the winners on the day, along with the prizes they've won!

We can't wait to see what you create!

Examples of some previous Book Bake Off entries:



## Attendance

Good attendance and punctuality are vital if pupils are to achieve their maximum potential.

- Only 30% of pupils with attendance of 90% and below achieve good outcomes.
- 90% of pupils with attendance of 96% or more achieve good outcomes.

We are committed to working with parents/carers and pupils to ensure that each pupil benefits from the academic, personal and social opportunities available to them during their years with us. Children who miss out on education are at an immediate disadvantage relative to their peers, and at a great cost to themselves and the community as a whole.

By working together, with families, we can keep absence at school to the lowest possible figure, ensuring that children get the absolute most from their education at school.

If your child's attendance falls below 96% you will receive a letter containing the details of their attendance and an invitation to access further support.

## Strikes

At the moment the strikes by the NEU are still due to go ahead. This means that tomorrow, **Tuesday 28th February, Nursery and Y2 Crafty Chameleons will be closed to pupils**. Full attendance is expected for all other children. There are two further proposed dates of the **15th and 16th March 2023**. We will continue to keep you informed of any further updates.

## HIP Group

As you are aware, we have an ever-growing and active HIP Group (Halfway Infants People Group) which is working hard to organise events for our children. However, they always need more help. If you think this is something you would like to be a part of, please see below the letter, and newsletter, from the group. It would be great to have you on board!

## After-School Activity Clubs

Football and Street Dance after-school clubs start this week. Unfortunately, both clubs were over-subscribed, so not every child who wanted a place has been allocated one. You will find out by letter whether your child has a place or not.

After Easter, F2 children will also be able to apply for places in the after-school activity clubs.

## Pre-owned uniform

We have lots of good quality jumpers and cardigans, with the school logo, available to buy from the School Office. All items cost £1.



### **What is the HIP Group?**

Halfway Infant People Group is our version of a PTA. We are a group of parents, grandparents and teachers who meet every few weeks to discuss and plan ways in which we can help school through fundraising activities.

### **What have the HIP Group done?**

Over the last few years, the group has raised money to enable the school to buy equipment and resources to improve it's facilities. This includes books, P.E equipment, outdoor learning equipment and larger items such as the trim trail. Each year we also provide book bags for the new children. Our school is often on a limited budget, and without the HIP Group there would be fewer resources for the children.

We arrange several activities throughout the year including the Winter Fayre, discos, visit and gifts from Santa and raffles. We also have some exciting events planned for Easter and the Coronation!

### **What would I be expected to do?**

We need volunteers to make the HIP Group viable. Whether this is attending the meetings, helping to run events, or simply contributing to ideas in our dedicated WhatsApp group.

### **How do I get involved?**

If this is something that you would like to get involved with then why not come along to our next meeting? This will be held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 9am in the staff room. If you would like adding to the WhatsApp group, or would simply like to discuss what is involved further, then drop a message to Helen Mackie on 07786030388 (Olivia's Mum from Y2) or Liz Forrest on 07427 627983 (Lottie's Mum from Y2).



## Halfway Infant People (HIP) Group Newsletter

Thank you for all your support so far this year. It is lovely to have so many activities and events back on the calendar. So far this year you have helped us to raise £697 which will help not only fund future events for the children and families of Halfway but have also allowed us to purchase our own disco sound system and lights, ipad accessories, and outdoor equipment and resources. We have even more fabulous activities and events planned for the Spring and Summer terms.

### World Book Day

#### **2nd March**

The HIP group are delighted to be able to support the World Book Day celebrations by donating a £10 book token per year group for the winners of the Book Bake Off. We can't wait to see your fabulous creations!



### Spring Discos

#### **Tuesday 14th March**

4pm - 4.45pm Year One (Rainbow Fish and Hungry Caterpillar classes)

5pm - 5.45pm Year Two (Crafty Chameleon and Enormous Crocodile classes)

#### **Tuesday 21st March**

4pm - 4.45pm Nursery

5pm - 5.45pm F2 (Gruffalo and Elmer classes)

Tickets will be £3.50 each and will include a drink and a sweet treat for every child. Booking will take place via text which you will receive soon; please reply promptly to book a place.

### Easter Egg Hunts

#### **27th - 31st March 2023**

Each class will be taking part in an Easter egg hunt at school during the week beginning 27th March 2023. These will all take place in school time and are organised by school staff. It is a lovely annual event which the HIP group are pleased to be able to support by providing a prize for every child in school with the help of some local businesses including NFC Groundwork's, Just4Cleaning and Metcalfe & Sons Farm.



### Easter Bonnet Parades

**Monday 27th March - Nursery Parade at 11am.** (Children who do not normally attend nursery on Monday mornings are invited to come along and join in the fun at 11.25am.)

**Tuesday 28th March - F2 Parade at 2.30pm**

**Wednesday 29th March - Year One Parade at 2.30pm**

**Thursday 30th March - Year Two Parade at 2.30pm**

Every child will be invited to make a bonnet or hat at home which they can wear proudly on the day and parents and carers are invited to attend their child's parade. The Halfway Infant People (HIP) group are pleased to be able to provide each child who enters with a sweet treat.

### 'Fund-Raisins'

#### **Friday 31st March**

Children will bring home a box of raisins to help us in our 'fund-raisin' efforts. Children can enjoy the raisins, then each time they help out at home over the holidays perhaps you could reward them by popping a silver coin in their raisin box. These boxes can be returned to the school office after the holidays.



#### **Coronation Picnic**

**Thursday 4th May 3.15pm - 5pm**

We will be celebrating the coronation of King Charles by holding an after school event that you are all invited to attend. There will be a cake stall and raffle, royal races and a royal photo-booth, along with games and music. Please bring along some small change for ice-creams and the games, along with a picnic and blanket (keeping your fingers crossed for good weather!) and we can all enjoy the celebrations together.

**Please do not bring alcohol or nuts as part of your picnic.**



#### **Bunting**

We are inviting children and families to make a flag to make coronation themed bunting which will be displayed at the coronation picnic and then in the school hall. Attached is a template. Please use this template to cut a triangle out of (preferably) red, white or blue fabric – curtains, a tea-towel, t-shirt, old bedding, even a J-cloth; any material that will survive getting wet will do. Your child can decorate the flag however they like, remembering that the bunting will be outside for a while; please use permanent markers, bleedproof materials, etc. Don't forget that your child needs to put their name on it, so they can recognise it in years to come! Bring the completed flags to the School Office. Mrs Tatham will pass them on to our volunteers who have kindly offered to sew the flags together to make the bunting.

We are asking for a donation of **50p per flag**; all money raised will go to HIP Group.

Your flag needs to be in school by **Monday 17th April** so we have time to put the bunting together.

Have fun designing your flags – we can't wait to see the bunting!

#### **Donations**

As ever, donations from our community help to make these events a success. If you are able to donate cakes for the Coronation Picnic, please bring them on the day and drop them into the School Office.

If you have any 'fancy' clothes such as hats, blazers, ties, feather boas we could use for the photo booth please also donate these via the School Office.



**Our next HIP Group meeting will be held on Monday 27th March at 9am in school.**

Please do pop along to join in the planning of future activities and events.