



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 20th June 2022

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------------------------|--------|--|---|--|--------|
| What's Happening this Week? | | New to F2 visits—4pm (pre-booked on Eventbrite). | 4pm Welcome to Nursery—ZOOM session F2 NHS vision screening—during normal school hours Y2 Get Set for PE Y2 Encanto Song and Dance After School Club | Vocabulary Parade Day (see information attached) 8 x Y1/Y2 children to attend the Commonwealth Games Festival at Westfield School (children TBC by the school office) Y1 Get Set for PE Y1 Multi-skills After School Club New to F2 visits—4pm (pre-booked on Eventbrite). | |
| And Next Week ? | | | Y2 Get Set for PE Y2 Encanto Song and Dance After School Club | Y1 Get Set for PE Y1 Multi-skills After School Club | |



Attendance for the week ending 17th June 2022:

| Class | Attendance (%) |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Mrs Jordan | 94.6 |
| Mrs Hibberd | 92.2 |
| Miss Dale | 86.4 |
| Mrs Bettinson/Mrs Briggs | 90.0 |
| Miss Hughes/ Mrs Hipkin | 73.9 |
| Mrs Timmons | 77.3 |

Overall attendance for the week was 85.2%

Chickenpox

We still have a number of confirmed cases of Chickenpox at the present time (affecting all year groups in school) and are following the relevant guidance to try and minimise spread. Please look out for symptoms, including the rash/spots, and follow the NHS advice should you suspect your child may have it - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/>

In line with NHS advice, children with Chickenpox need to stay off school/nursery until all the spots have formed a scab (this differs between children and usually takes around 5 days).

Keeping Children Safe in the Sun

- * Please apply high factor sunscreen/sunblock before school (children can also bring a named bottle into school for their personal use throughout the day—please hand this to staff for safekeeping)
- * Bring a wide brimmed hat for your child to wear
- * Provide a bottle with fresh water for your child to drink each day
- * Dress your child in clothes that cover and protect the skin

Dates for the Diary

| Date and time | Event |
|---|---|
| 4pm on Tuesday 21st June and Thursday 23rd June | New to F2 (Reception) Visits—Following our welcome meeting for children due to start in F2 (Reception) in September, we are offering opportunities for parents/carers and their children to visit our F2 setting and meet current F2 staff. Sessions, which should last for approximately 30 minutes, can be booked via Eventbrite links which have already been shared. |
| 4pm Wednesday 22nd June | For parents/carers of children who will be joining our nursery (F1) in September—a ‘Welcome to F1’ meeting held via ZOOM. Links have already been sent to parents/carers by Jenette in nursery. |
| Thursday 23rd June | National Writing Day/Vocabulary Parade Day (non-uniform —see overleaf for more details) |
| Thursday 23rd June | Commonwealth Games Festival at Westfield Comp—2:30-5:30pm. 8 of our Y1/Y2 children have been invited to attend this. Information was sent home last week about this and our PE lead, Miss Maloney, will be selecting names at random today from the replies she received. More information will be shared with relevant parents/carers regarding the arrangements for this event. |
| Wednesday 6th July Year 1 sports event starts at 9.10 am Year 2 sports event starts at 10.20 am F2 sports event starts at 11.30 am Each sports session (above) will last a maximum of 1 hour. | The healthy ‘Smoothie Bike’ will be visiting the school yard to set our school aged children up for their Sports Day on 6th July. We are delighted to be able to welcome parents/carers into school for Sports Day this year, now that restrictions have been lifted and our building work has been completed! Each year group will have its own age appropriate Sports Day session lasting for up to 60 minutes. The events have been organised by sports leaders and coaches from Westfield Comprehensive School and sessions will take place on the school field. Our catering contractor, Taylor Shaw, is providing both a Smoothie Bike and also a Hydration Station (fruit water) to keep the children hydrated during the events. Please can parents/carers stand behind the fence/wall on the yard (around the field) and only enter the school grounds 5 minutes before your child’s start time. As all year groups’ events will be running back to back, this will ensure that there is a smooth switch-over of adults at the end of each session. |
| Thursday 7th July | “ Day to Create ” - A special Arts Mark Community Day designed to support and celebrate children’s ideas, imagination and creativity through whole school arts activities. These will be planned as part of lessons and artwork will be shared with parents/carers on Tapestry. |
| Tuesday 12th July | Junior School Year 3 staff to visit our school and spend time in class with our Year 2 children. |
| Wednesday 13th July | Halfway Transition Day. Children staying at the Infants will move to their next year group in our school, and Y2 children moving to Halfway Junior School will spend the day there. |
| Thursday 14th July | Year 2 End of HNIS school trip to Rother Valley - more info to come from Y2 teachers... |
| Monday 18th July at 2 pm | Year 1 Family Picnic Event in our grounds —more info to come from Y1 teachers... |
| Tues 19th July at 10.30 am and 2 pm | End of nursery performances for parents/carers, held in our nursery classroom. There will be 2 performances. You will be able to book your place through an Eventbrite link when this is available. |
| Tuesday 19th July | End of Year reports for school aged children sent home for parents/carers (including Phonics Screening outcomes, end of EYFS and KS1 assessments etc.) |
| Wednesday 20th July | ‘End of Year Ball’ for both nursery and school aged children! Children are invited to wear party clothes for this celebration. There are lots of fun things in store for the children to enjoy during normal school hours—so there will be no changes to drop off and collection times. |
| Thursday 21st July | Special Y2 Celebration Assembly at 9am —parents are welcome to attend (we are planning an outdoor assembly, but if the weather is inclement, we will move to the hall!) F2 Family Picnic Event in our grounds at 2pm. More info to come from F2 teachers... |
| Thursday 21st July | We have allocated 3.30pm to 4.30pm if any F2/Y1/Y2 parent/carer wishes to book a phone call to discuss the contents of their child’s report. After reading through the report on 19th July, please request a call back with your child’s teacher via the School Office if you wish to discuss any of its contents. |
| Friday 22nd July | Last day of school—school and nursery break up for the summer holiday at the usual time/s |

Summer Plans

As you know from this and previous newsletters, this year we have planned special summer activities that will take place at school, such as the End of Year Ball, party days, Seaside Day for F2, and end of year celebrations. After more than 2 years, we would love the opportunity to get you all back into school to enjoy events again after the restrictions of the pandemic (...and then building work) have prevented this, and are really looking forward to inviting you into the school/grounds once more for Sports Day and family picnics etc.! We will be using the funds raised from the Jubilee events to cover the costs of the fun (such as booking a disco for the children at our End of Year Ball etc.) which means that there will be no charge to our families.

Our eldest children (Y2) will also be going on a fully risk assessed walking trip to Rother Valley for their End of HNIS picnic/team games to celebrate the end of their education at Halfway Nursery Infant School. What a truly amazing year group they have been over the past 3-4 years, and WHAT A TEAM!

As the costs of hiring coaches for trips has rocketed, in line with the price of fuel, so has the cost of living generally. We want to be able to explore ways we can support all our families to access school/nursery trips next year. It has been suggested in previous years that we ask the Friends PTA Group to subsidise the cost of trips with funds they raise through school discos, Christmas fairs etc. If some of you have time to spare and would like to get together and discuss how you can bring the Friends Group back into operation next year to support the cost of trips in the future, we'd be really grateful and would love to hear from you so we can get the ball rolling!

National Writing Day

National Writing Day is an annual nation-wide celebration of the power of writing creatively, and it aims to inspire people of all ages and abilities to try writing for fun and self-expression.

Vocabulary Parade - Thursday 23rd June 2022 This year we are having a big focus on learning new vocabulary through different subjects, discussion, reading and writing. Mrs Timmons, our English Subject Lead, has researched inventive ways to immerse children in vocabulary, and she has organised a Vocabulary Parade on Thursday 23th June which will follow on from National Writing Day. This will be a non-uniform day as we would like you to get creative at home and think of a word that your child can 'dress' as for the day (please see below for examples!).

This school-wide activity is a fun way to encourage children to learn and explore new vocabulary. They will also engage in activities throughout the day to encourage them to develop their vocabulary and apply new words in their play and learning. Thank you for organising the following Mrs Timmons...!

How does my child get ready for the parade?

- Get creative!
- Help your child select a word for the parade, one that would be fun to use to create a costume to represent the word and its meaning. You could design and create your costume using t-shirts, boxes, hats, fabric, etc. or keep it simple with clothes that are already in their wardrobe.
- Please make sure that your child can see and walk safely with the costume on, and is able to use the toilet independently when wearing it too (best to avoid onesies!)
- Make a large vocabulary card with your child's word on it so everyone knows which word they have chosen to represent. Children can carry the card, make it into a headband or have it as a part of their costume! Need some inspiration? A few examples.....
 - 'Colourful' - Wear as many different coloured items of clothing as you can;
 - 'Thoughtful' - Draw and cut out lots of thought bubbles and question marks to attach to your outfit;
 - 'Sparkly' - How many glittery items of clothing do you have? You could even add glitter to your hair.

These are just a few ideas, and we are sure you can come up with much more original and creative ideas than we have!

In the afternoon, children will gather outside (weather permitting) for a Vocabulary Parade where they will show off their creative outfits. Nursery children will hold their own vocabulary parade for the morning children up in the nursery yard.

We can't wait to see all the fantastic outfits, and hopefully learn some new and exciting vocabulary too!

Whole school staffing update

Our Governing Board is working very hard behind the scenes to shape the leadership structure for school in September, as I am due to leave post at the end of this term. As I informed you in a letter back in March, I have made the decision to dust off my Art specialism from university, and will be venturing into a new career as a Director in a design business from 1st September, working alongside my close family (...very exciting times ahead, but I also apologise if I've been emotional when you've spoken to me about this on the yard as I'm really going to miss school too!). Our Governing Board will write to you to inform you of the plans once it has finalised these.

As you are also aware, Mrs Jordan has recently secured a promotion as part of a senior leadership team at another school and will, therefore, sadly be leaving school at the end of the school year. Mrs Bettinson's maternity leave will also be starting very soon (with Friday 1st July now being her last planned day in school before her maternity leave commences). Therefore, recruitment for both permanent and temporary teaching staff took place last week.

Once all the relevant pre-employment checks for the successful candidates have been completed, we will be able to share information with you regarding who your child's class teacher will be in September (and who will cover the beginning of the maternity cover before the summer holiday). We hope this will be in the next week or two.

In the meantime, it's all systems go to plan and implement support for each child to help prepare them to move to their new year group. (NB—If your child is moving onto another school, his/her new school will be in contact with you directly to inform you of their plans. We will work with all settings/providers to ensure that information is passed over to support a successful transition between schools).

Transition in preparation for September

In school transition

We are pleased to say that opportunities for children to visit their next class/school are possible this year now that restrictions have been lifted e.g.

- Next class teachers will be visiting the children informally in July e.g. spending time with them at playtimes etc.
- New teaching staff will be visiting school where they can get to know staff and children before September too!
- Staff will more formally meet their new children on **13th July** when the children will spend the day in their new classroom at both our school and Halfway Junior School. We have also invited new teaching staff to attend on this day, and they are hoping to be able to do so.
- Our transition plan puts children's needs and safety first. We appreciate that some children may need an enhanced or personalised transition plan to help them to prepare for upcoming changes/transitions e.g. if your child is on our SEND register, transition plans will be discussed and agreed as part of their upcoming SEND review. Please contact your class teacher directly should you have any questions/not be attending a review.
- I have also planned time for teachers to meet to share information with new class teachers about how super your children are so they too can prepare for their new class in September.
- If your child is moving from our Nursery onto a different school in your catchment area, or from Y2 to Y3, we are also making contact with new class teachers/schools to share key information to ensure a smooth transition between schools.
- Very similar processes are in place for children who will be new to our nursery or F2 in September. We have sent letters and welcome packs out to welcome new families, along with information about upcoming welcome meetings and visits etc. Our F2 staff will be making visits to our nursery and have been making individual phone calls home for children who will be completely new to school in September to discuss transition. They also look forward to meeting parents/carers and children on the F2 visits that are taking place this week.

Emails sent to enquiries@halfway-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

We have recently been made aware of a problem with some emails coming through to the school office as we have received a large amount of backlogged emails from April-May. These have only just arrived in the 'enquiries' inbox, and admin staff are wading their way through the messages.

Therefore, if the school office has not responded to an email you have sent over the past few weeks, please accept our apologies, but it may be that your email has been one of those affected. Please bear with us whilst our admin staff check these. **If your email related to something urgent/important, please do get in touch with us again to check this has been received.**

Our IT technicians have been made aware of this problem.

With kindest regards,

Paula Bestall