



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 30th November 2020

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
What's Happening this Week?	Phonics Screening Check for Year 2 pupils (NB—all schools have been asked to deliver the Phonics Screening Check to Y2 pupils before the end of the Autumn Term, after national testing was cancelled in the Summer Term due to national school closures. These 'special' phonics activities are being delivered on a 1:1 basis by a member of familiar staff (from their own classroom). Whilst this involves decoding a set of words without any adult assistance (in the library area where there are no distractions and under test conditions), the children are used to taking part in phonics sessions in this area and therefore may not even realise that they are completing an assessment!)				
And Next Week ?	4pm Mrs Jordan's class Zoom Christmas performance	4pm Miss Dale's class Zoom Christmas performance 4.30 pm Miss Kay's and Mrs Hibberd's class Zoom Christmas performance	4pm Mrs Bettinson's and Mrs Briggs's class Zoom Christmas performance 4.30 pm Nursery Zoom Christmas performance	4pm Mrs Timmons's class Zoom Christmas performance 4.30 pm Miss Hughes's Zoom Christmas performance	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day



Attendance for the week ending 27th November 2020:

Class	Attendance (%)
Mrs Jordan	97.2
Mrs Briggs/ Mrs Bettinson	96.7
Miss Dale	97.7
Miss Kay/Mrs Hibberd	94.3
Miss Hughes	94.1
Mrs Timmons	96.8

Overall attendance for the week was 96.1%

Upcoming Diary Dates



- w\b Monday 7th December: Children can bring one Christmas card for their class\group with a special Christmas wish inside!
- w\b Monday 7th December: S20 Foodbank\Westfield Big Local toy donation. If you would like to donate a new toy, please put it
- Monday 7th—Thursday 10th December: ZOOM Christmas Performances (see overleaf for information!)
- Friday 11th December: Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day



S20 Foodbank\Westfield Big Local toy donation

Week beginning 7 December 2020:

If you would like to donate a new toy, please put it in a donation box in the PlayPod (the blue shed in the yard) - boxes will be out each morning.

UPCOMING INSET DAY

School will be closed for staff training on **Monday January 4th 2021**

CHRISTMAS PLANS 2020 – Sharing the magic of Christmas!

Our whole staff team is committed to making Christmas 2020 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 to make a difference in our local community this Christmas time.

Each class is putting together a performance for parents/carers which we trust will be a real 'Christmas Celebration'. These Christmas Celebration performances will be pre-filmed and premiered over Zoom. Parents\carers will be invited to join the Zoom session with their child to watch their class performance. As this will be the 'premier' of the performances, red carpet style evening dress or Christmas jumpers for the Zoom session are welcome (optional, but encouraged to make this special for the children!)

The children are working very hard to film their performances ready to share them with you at home in a Covid-safe way. We would love to be able to share our performances on Tapestry after the 'premier showing' via Zoom (links to be sent out closer to the showings) so you can enjoy these over and over again - **we are just checking all the permissions for this before we are able to confirm the plan - please contact school by Wednesday 2nd December if you have any concerns about your child/the class film being uploaded onto Tapestry.**

The films will be shown over Zoom as follows:

Mrs Jordan's class	4pm, Monday 7 December
Mrs Bettinson and Mrs Briggs' class	4pm, Wednesday 9 December
Miss Dale's class	4pm, Tuesday 8 December
Miss Kay and Mrs Hibberd's class	4.30pm, Tuesday 8 December
Miss Hughes' class	4.30pm, Thursday 10 December
Mrs Timmons' class	4pm, Thursday 10 December
Nursery	4.30pm, Wednesday 9 December

Santa

Although our grotto will be having a year off, we've asked Santa very nicely if he would still have time to see our children via the wonders of modern technology! He is very excited as we have told him how good they have been this year. We are hoping that his very special video calls will be on Tuesday 15th December and we will contact you to share the final arrangements. We are so excited that the children will have the opportunity to see Santa this year. Thank you Santa!

A special gift

Santa will also be sending a gift for each child (with a little help from the Friends of Halfway Nursery Infant School Group) which will be safely stored in school for the recommended period of time before being given to the children and sent home.

Christmas Cards from home

We are asking all the children to bring in **one** special card that is written for their entire class/nursery group, with a special Christmas message/wish to share. The children can put their card into a 'post box' in their classroom next week w/b 7 December. During a circle time activity a few days later, each child will take a card from the box and read it out to the class/group. The cards will then be displayed in the classroom for them all to enjoy.

Christmas Jumper Day for Save for Children – Friday 11th 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 <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cjd200008143> (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 -Tuesday 15th December

Children to wear school uniform please, and can bring a Christmas hat, headband, tinsel accessory etc. to wear on their head. The menu for the Christmas Dinner is attached to this newsletter.

Cinderella Performance... New addition to the Christmas line up!

The Music Hub is kindly offering all schools a free online 50 minute performance of Cinderella on Wednesday 16 December as a Christmas gift! This performance will be provided by professional Sheffield based opera company **Opera on Location**, delivered, and in partnership with, Sheffield Music Hub's 12 days of Music, and generously funded by Arts Council England.

The show will be streamed via YouTube, and our school will be provided with a link to access this.

Polly Ives, children's concert presenter and creator of award winning 'Concerteenies' will introduce the opera and pop up at opportune moments to further our young children's understanding of opera. There will also be some light activities for the pupils to discuss the performance afterwards.



Party Days – Thursday 17th December (Nursery) and Friday 18th December (F2, Y1, Y2)

Children can wear a Christmas jumper or party clothes. School will provide an individually wrapped bag of crisps, fruit and packet of sweets per child (for safety as no food is able to be shared by the children due to current restrictions). All classes will have party games and dancing, a film and other Christmassy activities. (If your Nursery child does not attend on a Thursday, but would like to come to the afternoon party, please contact Jenette in the nursery office on 0114 2470564).

Giving to others at Christmas time - S20 Food Bank\Westfield Big Local Toy Appeal

As a staff team, we have decided not to do our usual 'Secret Santa' gift exchange this year. Instead, we would like to try and support local families in need, and so are going to be donating new toys to local children/families this year. The S20 Food Bank is working with Westfield Big Local to deliver Christmas Lunch Hampers to families who may not otherwise be able to enjoy a Christmas dinner. Along with these hampers, a local football coach is supporting them to collect toys to deliver to the children in the households who are eligible for a Christmas Lunch Hamper. Therefore, our toys are going to be donated to this very worthy cause.

If you are able to/feel that you would also like to donate a new toy for a local child, please bring your donations (in original packaging with any safety labels still attached please) to school during **week beginning Monday 7 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 until the food bank team can collect them. (If you are having difficulties and would also like some information about the support and services that the food bank offers, please contact me on 0114 2482360)

A big thank you to the 'Friends of Halfway Nursery Infant School' group for making our Christmas activities possible, and also thank you for all your support. We are very much looking forward to the Christmas season in our school and sharing it with you!

Sheffield to go into Tier 3 after lockdown - 'Very High' alert category

The Government has announced that Sheffield will come out of lockdown on 2nd December and enter into the Tier 3 'Very High' alert category, along with Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham.

Some Tier 3 restrictions will be different this time compared to the period in which Sheffield was in Tier 3 before lockdown started on 5th November.

The Tier 3 rules will now mean that:

- People must not meet socially with friends and family indoors in any setting unless they are part of your household or support bubble. This includes private homes and indoors in hospitality venues. They must also not meet with people outside of their household or support bubble in a private garden or in most outdoor public venues.
- People must not socialise in a group of more than 6 in an outdoor public space such as a park or beach, the countryside or a public garden.
- Hospitality venues will be closed, with the exception of take aways, click & collect, drive through and delivery services. Shops and retail outlets will be open.
- Indoor venues will be closed including indoor play centres and areas, trampolining parks and soft play, casinos, bingo halls, bowling alleys, skating rinks, amusement arcades and adult gaming centres, laser quests and escape rooms, cinemas, theatres and concert halls, snooker halls and skating rinks.
- Leisure and sports facilities may continue to stay open but there will be no group exercise classes (including fitness and dance), saunas and steam rooms will close.
- People will be required to reduce the number of journeys they make where possible but can travel to venues or amenities that are open. Travel to other parts of the UK needs to be avoided, including for overnight stays other than where necessary, such as for work, education, youth services, to receive medical treatment, or because of caring responsibilities.
- Places of worship will be open, but people must not attend with or socialise with anyone outside of their household or support bubble, unless a legal exemption applies.
- The number of people attending weddings and funerals will be restricted. 15 people can attend wedding ceremonies but wedding receptions will not be allowed. 30 people can attend funeral ceremonies and 15 people can attend linked commemorative events.
- Everyone who can work from home should do so. Where people cannot do so – including, but not limited to, people who work in critical national infrastructure, construction, or manufacturing – they should continue to travel to their workplace. Public-sector employees working in essential services, including education settings, should continue to go into work where necessary.

Across all tiers everyone:

- must wear a face covering in most indoor public settings, unless they have an exemption
- should follow the rules on meeting others safely
- should attend school or college as normal, unless they are self-isolating. Schools, universities, colleges and early years settings remain open in all tiers.
- should walk or cycle where possible, plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes when travelling
- must follow the gathering limits at their tier except for in specific settings and circumstances.

Visits to care homes can take place with arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods and window visits. Regular testing will be offered to up to 2 family members or friends per resident by Christmas, which, when combined with other infection-control measures such as PPE, will support indoor visits with physical contact. Detailed guidance will soon be published.

For international travel there is advice and guidance from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office: travel advice for destination information and the travel corridors list.

Sheffield in Tier 3—continued

Greg Fell, Director of Public Health for Sheffield said, “The important thing for us at the moment is to remember that although our rates are coming down they do remain too high, so my message to everyone is to carry on doing the right thing to beat this virus; wash your hands, don’t touch your face with hands that aren’t clean and keep your distance – that two metres between you and another person makes all the difference.

“As we know, this is a virus that kills 1% of the people it infects and we have many people in the city who are at a higher risk than others from it. We have to remain vigilant. We’re not out of the woods yet and, even though we are hearing good news about a vaccination it is not in place yet so this is a crucial time for us to keep following the rules.

“That said, what Sheffieldsers are doing is working. We have the second or third lowest rates in Yorkshire which hasn’t happened by magic; it’s happened because a large proportion of people have followed the guidance and we thank them for that.”

Schools have been asked to remind parents/carers that ‘class bubbles’ should not meet up outside of the school day - play dates etc. with children from the same friendship groups or school classes are not permitted under the current national restrictions that are currently in place. The bubbles in school are to support contact tracing and minimise risk of virus transmission within the school day.

Covid-19 Community Helpline

If you don’t have anyone you can call on to help during lockdown, you are not alone. Sheffield’s community helpline is here to support you. Please call them on 0114 273 4567 or visit the website to see how it can help.



NURSERY NEWS

- We are also looking for donations of any plastic or wooden Christmas decorations that you no longer need (no glass please) —we will use them to decorate the outdoor play area.
- Can we please ask that you label all hats, scarfs and gloves with your child's name.
- **Nursery Christmas Party is on Thursday 17th December**—If your child does not normally attend on a Thursday but you would like your child to come to the nursery Christmas Party session, they are welcome to attend the party in the **afternoon of Thursday 17th** (we cannot accommodate additional children for the morning session, but they are more than welcome to join in the fun in the afternoon party session). Please speak to Jenette if you wish your child to attend/to book them a place if they do not usually attend on a Thursday.

Stay safe, be kind to one another, and thank you for supporting our school community.

As always, please let us know if we can help in any way.

Kind regards,

Paula Bestall

Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

w\b Monday 7 December	Children can bring one Christmas card for their class\group
w\b Monday 7 December	S20 Foodbank\Westfield Big Local toy donation If you would like to donate a new toy, please put it in the PlayPod (the blue shed in the yard)
Monday 7 December, 4pm	Mrs Jordan's class Zoom Christmas performance – a link will be sent to the email address we use for sending newsletters
Tuesday 8 December, 4pm	Miss Dale's class Zoom Christmas performance – a link will be sent to the email address we use for sending newsletters
Tuesday 8 December, 4.30pm	Miss Kay and Mrs Hibberd's class Zoom Christmas performance – a link will be sent to the email address we use for sending newsletters
Wednesday 9 December, 4pm	Mrs Bettinson and Mrs Briggs' class Zoom Christmas performance – a link will be sent to the email address we use for sending newsletters
Wednesday 9 December, 4.30pm	Nursery Zoom Christmas performance – a link will be sent to the email address we use for sending newsletters
Thursday 10 December, 4pm	Mrs Timmons' class Zoom Christmas performance – a link will be sent to the email address we use for sending newsletters
Thursday 10 December, 4.30pm	Miss Hughes' Zoom Christmas performance – a link will be sent to the email address we use for sending newsletters
Friday 11 December	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)
Tuesday 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.
Thursday 17 December	Nursery Christmas Party Day – morning and afternoon sessions. Children can wear a Christmas jumper or party clothes (no 'fancy dress' outfits please)
Friday 18 December	School Christmas Party Day. Children can wear a Christmas jumper or party clothes (no 'fancy dress' outfits please)
*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 and staff aren't able to help them under Covid-19 restrictions.	

NB - Whilst we wanted to give you advanced notice of our plans, these may need to change in response to any updated guidance from the LA Public Health team on continuing to reduce virus transmission and minimising risk, to help enjoy and celebrate Christmas in school safely.



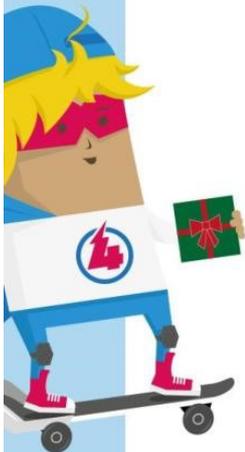
CHRISTMAS MENU

**HALFWAY NURSERY
& INFANT SCHOOL**



Christmas Menu

15th December 2020





CHRISTMAS MENU

Roast Turkey & Gravy

With Pork Chipolata

Or

Quorn Roast & Gravy

With Vegetarian Sausage

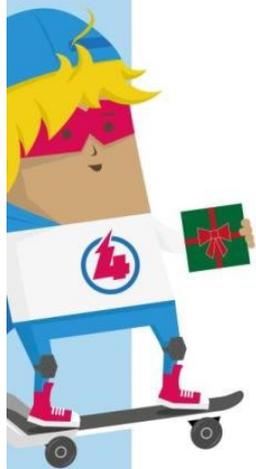
With

Roast Potatoes, Carrots or Peas

Snowball Crispy

Or

Fresh Fruit Salad





News from Halfway Junior School

Ofsted COVID visit

On 5th November we received a remote monitoring visit from Ofsted. This visit was conducted under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 (as amended) and in accordance with Ofsted's published procedures for visiting schools while routine inspections are temporarily suspended. Ofsted's visits to schools during the autumn term are not inspections. They are not giving graded judgements and did not undertake the usual range of inspection activities.

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills is leading Ofsted's work into how England's education system is managing the return to full education for pupils, following an extended break in formal schooling due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In undertaking this focused work, HMI are visiting a broad range of schools. HMI will visit a sample of: approximately 1,200 schools across all Ofsted grades (outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate). The information from this visit will feed into Ofsted's national reporting so that the insights can be shared with the government and the education sector. The visit letter can be found [here](#).

It felt strange being interviewed by Ofsted via zoom; however, it is 2020! The letter produced is very unusual, it is written in a way that does not tell us or you anything other than what we are doing. What we would say is that despite the strange situation, the visit was extremely positive. Throughout the day we were told that we were doing well and that what we had in place was impressive and brilliant. Unfortunately, they are not allowed to put any of that in the report. We would say however, having read a couple of these letters there is a lot more information in our letter than others we have seen. Nevertheless, we are pleased with the way the day went and know that Ofsted were extremely confident that we were doing a good job during this pandemic.

Zoom with Santa

Instead of visiting Santa's grotto this year, children will get the chance to have a small group zoom visit from the great man himself and receive a small gift. He will be flying into school on Friday 11th December. Because this will be held in school time there are no limits on the number of children who can visit him. Unfortunately, siblings from different classes will not be able to visit him together. Grotto tickets cost £2 and can be bought via ParentPay.

Family Quiz

Seeing as we can't go out, why not stay in and have a family quiz night?

We have two family Christmas quiz sheets for you to enjoy:

- 'Guess the Elf' – can you guess the staff member who is dressed up as a Christmas Elf?
- 'Chocolate Quiz' – can you name the chocolate bars using the clues?

If you would like to take part, simply pay for the quiz sheet you would like on ParentPay and it will be sent home with your child. Send your completed quiz sheets back to school by Friday 11th December. There will be a winner chosen from each year group, with a family prize to be won! Entry costs 50p a quiz and can be paid for via ParentPay.

Raffle

Raffle prizes, include 2 x signed Sheffield United footballs, a Sheffield United teddy bear, a £15 gift voucher for Ninja Printz (towards a ready-made print or a custom portrait or print on their website), a £25 Amazon gift card courtesy of Ranstad Education, a luxury Christmas hamper from Morrisons, a Lenovo Smart Clock from B&Q Drakehouse and a family photography experience from Stan Plus Stan Two. You also have the chance to win a hamper from each year group. Each year group has been assigned a 'theme' for donations to help us to create some wonderful Christmas hampers for the raffle. Thank you to everyone who has already donated – they are looking great! Please send donations for these into school by Friday 4th December.

We are also asking for donations of **Glass jars for year 4 - please bring us your clean, empty glass jars, Toilet and kitchen roll tubes for year 5 – please bring us your empty rolls!** All donations can be sent into school with your child and handed to their class teacher. Thank you to everybody for your continued contributions.

Christmas Gifts

All our children are busy making a unique Christmas gift for you to buy. Normally we would sell these at our Christmas Market. However, next week we will be sharing with you what they are making and how you can purchase your child's product.

Dr Bike – Tuesday 8th December

Dr Bike is visiting school next week. Anyone who cycles to school will get a free health check for their bike to ensure it is safe to ride. We are working with Amy, our Active Travel Officer, to ensure we are complying with Covid-19 health and safety guidance. Bikes will be looked at and worked on during the day, with tags left on them explaining what work Amy has done. On the day, Y3 children can leave their bikes outside Miss Marklew's classroom and Y4, Y5, and Y6 can leave their bikes outside the Y4 cloakroom. Y6 will be able to enter the school grounds via the top gate if they bring their bike. Please do not ride, but push your bikes, when on the school grounds. Please continue to social distance at the school gates when bringing bikes onto the school grounds. Let us know if your child is planning to cycle to school by completing the ParentMail form we have sent you.

Pencil Cases – Reminder

We would like to remind everyone to leave their pencil cases at home and not to bring them in to school. We have all the equipment children need to use here in school. Thank you for your support.

Mobile Phones

We understand that mobile phones have become part of everyday life for many children and they can play an important role in helping children to feel safe on their journey to school. If your child does bring a mobile phone to school, it should be switched off and handed into their class teacher in the morning. Mobile phones are kept in the school office and returned to children at the end of the day. Please note that phones are brought into school at the owner's risk.