



# Weekly Newsletter

Monday 23rd November 2020

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

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

## **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 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

Our other plans for making this Christmas in school a jolly one were set out in the letter that you will have received last week. A copy is also attached to this newsletter.

## **School Admission Deadline**

For families applying for primary school places for reception, or to start junior school, the closing date is 15 January 2021.

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/schools-childcare/apply-school-place>

Parents/carers should fill in all three preferences in order to keep their options open (putting down three preferences does not dilute the chance to be offered the preferred school, but does provide alternatives should the first preference school be over-subscribed).

Families are also encouraged to name their catchment school as one of their preferences, as places cannot be reserved for catchment pupils if a preference for this school has not been expressed by parents/carers.

Parents will find out the results of their primary school applications on April 16 2021.

Although we have not been able to offer our usual school tours around classrooms this term, we are able to offer external visits to school after the school day for new parents/carers and we are also organising Zoom meetings for our new starters (there is one on Wed 25th Nov. for new nursery starters for January 2021—information has already been sent home for the relevant parent/carers). There is also a lot of information available on our website e.g. the new parent/carer handbook, admissions information etc.

<https://www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org/our-admissions-procedure>

## A reminder from Sheffield Council re Covid-19

We have been asked to remind all parents, carers and pupils that anyone with symptoms must self-isolate, get a test and return home straight after the test. The household should self isolate and children and young people should not come into school. Children cannot come into school if they are awaiting a test result themselves or have family members whom they live with awaiting test results. Please see the information below.

Schools have also 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.

# Coronavirus (COVID-19) absence

A quick guide for parents/carers

Self-isolation\* is helping to stop the spread of coronavirus. Thank you for following this advice and playing your part.

What to do if...	Action needed	Back to school...
<p>... my child has <b>Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms**</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child must not go to school</li> <li>• Child must get a test</li> <li>• Everyone who lives in the house must self-isolate* until you get the test result</li> <li>• Tell the school immediately about test result</li> </ul>	<p>... If child's test is negative and when they have been <b>symptom free for 48 hours</b></p>
<p>... my child tests positive for <b>Coronavirus (COVID-19)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child must not go to school</li> <li>• Child must self-isolate* for at least 10 days from when symptoms** started (or from day of test if no symptoms)</li> <li>• Tell the school immediately about test result</li> <li>• Whole household must self-isolate* for 14 days from start of symptoms (or from day of test if no symptoms) – even if someone tests negative during those 14 days</li> </ul>	<p>... when child feels better and has not had a fever for at least 48 hours</p> <p>They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone</p>
<p>... my child is sent home because they are in a bubble that the school has closed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child must not go to school</li> <li>• Child must self-isolate* for 14 days - even if they test negative during those 14 days</li> <li>• Everyone else who lives in the house does not need to isolate, unless they have been identified as a close contact of someone with a positive result</li> </ul>	<p>... when the school says it is OK for them to return, usually when the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during those 14 days</p>
<p>... a person who I live with has <b>Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms*</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child / children must not attend school</li> <li>• The person with symptoms must get a test</li> <li>• Everyone who lives in the house must self-isolate* until they get their result</li> <li>• Tell the school immediately about test result</li> </ul>	<p>... if the person's test is negative and if the child does not have any symptoms**</p>
<p>... a person who I live with has tested positive for <b>Coronavirus (COVID-19)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child must not go to school</li> <li>• Everyone in the house must self-isolate* for 14 days from start of symptoms** (or from day of test if no symptoms) even if somebody tests negative during those 14 days</li> </ul>	<p>... when child has completed 14 days of isolation, even if they test negative during those 14 days</p>

\*When a person is self-isolating they must not leave the house for any reason (unless they are going for a Coronavirus test) and must not have visitors in their home.  
 If you need any advice or support, including help with shopping, you can call the Council's Coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline on 0114 27 34567.  
 For urgent medical advice call 111.  
 \*\*Symptoms include at least one of the following:

What to do if...	Action needed	Back to school
<p>... NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a <b>close contact of someone with symptoms** of Coronavirus (COVID-19)</b></p> <p>OR</p> <p>... your child has been in <b>close contact</b> with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus</p> <p>Examples of <b>close contact</b> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• close face-to-face contact (under 1 metre) for any length of time – including talking to them or coughing on them</li> <li>• being within 1 to 2 metres of each other for more than 15 minutes – including travelling in a car</li> <li>• spending lots of time together in your/their home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child must not go to school</li> <li>• Child must self-isolate* for 14 days - even if they test negative during those 14 days</li> <li>• Everyone else who lives in the house does not need to isolate, unless they have also been identified as a close contact of someone with a positive result</li> </ul>	<p>... when the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during those 14 days</p>
<p>... we/my child has travelled to another country and has to <b>self-isolate*</b> as part of a period of quarantine</p>	<p><b>Returning from a country where quarantine is needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child must not go to school</li> <li>• Everyone who lives in the house must self-isolate* for 14 days - even if they test negative during those 14 days</li> </ul> <p><b>To support your child's education:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not take unauthorised leave in school term time</li> <li>• Consider quarantine requirements and official advice when booking travel</li> <li>• Provide information to school as per attendance policy</li> </ul>	<p>... when the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed for the child, even if they test negative during those 14 days</p>
<p>... we have received advice from a medical/official source that my child must resume shielding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child must not go to school</li> <li>• Contact school as advised by attendance officer/pastoral team</li> <li>• Child must shield until you are told that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again</li> </ul>	<p>... when school/other agencies tell you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can go back to school again</p>
<p>... I am not sure who should get a test for <b>Coronavirus (COVID-19)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only people with symptoms** should get a test</li> <li>• People without symptoms are not advised to get a test, even if they are a 'close contact' of someone who tests positive</li> </ul>	<p>... when conditions above, as matching your situation, are met</p>

For more information and advice please visit [www.sheffield.gov.uk/BackToSchoolSafely](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/BackToSchoolSafely)  
 To book a test call 119 or visit [nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://nhs.uk/coronavirus)

Adapted from a document produced by Greater Manchester

## **Additional Bank Holiday– Queen’s platinum Jubilee June 2022**

The Government has announced that there will be an additional Bank holiday on Friday 3 June 2022. The original Spring Bank Holiday will be moved from Monday 30 May to Thursday 2nd June to create a 4 day weekend. The Spring Bank half term has already been set for the week commencing 30 May so this should not create any disruption to your school year.

If there is any further guidance, this will be shared with you. The following is a link to the press release providing more details:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-bank-holiday-to-mark-the-queens-platinum-jubilee-in-2022>

### **NURSERY NEWS**

- We would be really grateful for donations of spare clothes for nursery aged children as we are running very low - in particular, we are DESPERATE for spare trousers if you have any your children have grown out of!
- 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**



**'Caring, sharing, learning for life'**

Acting Deputy Headteacher: Miss Rebecca Hughes

**Halfway Nursery Infant School**

**Station Road**

**Halfway**

**Sheffield**

**S20 3GU**

☎ 0114 2482360 / 2472402 (Main School)

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

Headteacher: Mrs Paula Bestall

18/11/2020

## **CHRISTMAS PLANS 2020 – Sharing the magic of Christmas!**

Our whole staff team are committed to making Christmas 2020 magical at Halfway Nursery Infant School! Our aims are to both 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.

Our plans may look a little different this year, but in true pre-Christmas spirit, we are focussing on what we can do and the difference that we can make together, rather than what we can't.

There will not be any charges made for any of the following events as we would love everyone to enjoy the festive fun. We hope you agree that the children will have a lovely time and will hopefully enjoy the magic of our Halfway Nursery Infant School Christmas!

Here is the plan....

### **Performances for parents/carers**

Each class is putting together a performance for parents/carers which we hope 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!)

**We have permission for all the children to take part in activities which will be filmed (this consent was given when you signed up to Tapestry), but if you have any concerns about your child being in the film and the film being shown via Zoom, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can ensure your child's image is not included. Only parents\carers of the children in your child's class will receive a Zoom invitation.**

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're not sure when his very special video calls will be (as Santa is very busy this season!) but he has

agreed to make time for every class in our school so that all our children have the opportunity to see Santa this year. We will let you know when he has checked his diary. 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**

As we are advised to avoid items coming to/from school and different households, children will not be able to bring in individual cards to exchange. Instead, we ask them to bring one special card in that is written for their entire class/nursery group, with a special Christmas message/wish on to share. The children can put their card into a 'post box' in their classroom during week 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Party Days – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December (Nursery) and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 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). All classes will have party games and dancing, a film and other Christmassy activities. (If your Nursery child doesn't attend on a Thursday but would like to come to the morning or 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 - 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 instead. 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, and 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!

Take care,

Mrs Bestall

## 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.