



# Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 14th December 2020

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

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

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
What's Happening this Week?		<p>ZOOM with Santa Day (if any child has been instructed to isolate, you can still Zoom in from home—please contact us if you have not had a link!)</p> <p>Christmas Dinner Day. Children to wear school uniform, but they can bring a Christmas hat, headband, etc. to wear on their head.</p>	<p>Children are watching a streamed performance of Cinderella (links also to be sent home to children who have been instructed to isolate, if permissions allow)</p>	<p>Nursery Christmas Party Day – morning and afternoon sessions. Children can wear a Christmas jumper or party clothes (no 'fancy dress' outfits please)</p>	<p>School Christmas Party Day. Children can wear a Christmas jumper or party clothes (no 'fancy dress' outfits please).</p> <p><b>School closes for Christmas holidays</b></p>
And Next Week ?	School closed	School closed	School closed	School closed	School closed



**Attendance for the week ending 11th December 2020:**

Class	Attendance (%)
Mrs Jordan	95.6
Mrs Briggs/ Mrs Bettinson	96.5
Miss Dale	94.2
Miss Kay/Mrs Hibberd	96.3
Miss Hughes	93.3
Mrs Timmons	95.6

Overall attendance for the week was 95.2%

## Upcoming Diary Dates



Tuesday 15th December	Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday 17th December	Nursery Christmas Party
Friday 18th December	School Christmas Party
Friday 18th December	School closes for Christmas holidays



## UPCOMING INSET DAY

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

Please note—Breakfast Club will be running as normal w/c 14th December but **there will be no Superkids after school club this week.**

## Zoom with Santa—15th December!

Live 30 minute Zoom sessions have been scheduled for all classes tomorrow, and we cannot wait to see the children's faces when they see Santa Zoom in to talk to them on the big screen! Santa has been sent a list of questions from the children and a little information about their recent topics and learning in class (as well as hearing about his cheeky elves that are running loose around school at the moment!) and he is looking forward to talking to each class. If your child has been instructed to isolate this week, you should have been sent a Zoom link and a time slot so you can join in from home, as we really would like all children to take part.

To ensure online safety is taken into account -

- each teacher will host this call for the whole class using their own school Zoom account;
- 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 (if you are Zooming in with your child from home, please turn your camera on and rename your Zoom ID to your child's initials please so we can ensure their personal data is not shared);
- live sessions will not be recorded;
- the special person who will be Zooming in to see us is known to a member of school staff, and is also a professional actor. All safeguarding checks have been completed in preparation for this special day.

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.

We are very fortunate that Santa has offered his services for free this year to give all classes an opportunity to say hello to him, despite the current restrictions. There will, therefore, be no charge for this as we would love for all our children to see Santa this Christmas, and have a feeling that it will be very magical indeed...!

## Joe Wicks—PE Challenge

We have received our certificate to recognise the school's participation in the Joe Wicks PE challenge—and the effort put into this by children and staff in support of Children in Need. Well done everyone!!!



## Sharing our Christmas Celebration performances with Rose Cottage

We have sought advice from our Data Protection Officer regarding sharing our gorgeous nativities with the residents of Rose Cottage Nursing and Care Home and, as the children are not identifiable through name, we do not need individual parental permission before sharing this (NB - The names at the end of Nursery's video will be removed in the version shared).

We are, therefore, going to copy our Christmas celebrations and nativities onto a DVD for Rose Cottage staff to show to their residents. This DVD will then be sent back to school once they have watched it.

If you have any concerns, please inform the school office by 3pm Tuesday 15th December.

## 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.

## Party Days – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December (Nursery) and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December (School)

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).

**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!**

## Cinderella Performance

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 (we will send this to any children instructed to isolate if permissions allow).

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.



## Having a safe—but merry—Christmas

The following link will take you to a short video summarising how to stay safe—but still enjoy—your Christmas.

[https://m.youtube.com/watch?utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term=&v=5VMAx8mv\\_P8](https://m.youtube.com/watch?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=&v=5VMAx8mv_P8)



## Support at Christmas time

If you don't have anyone you can call on to help during lockdown and over the Christmas period, 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.

**Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

**Community Helpline**

**0114 273 4567** Lines open 8.45am to 4.45pm  
[sheffield.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://sheffield.gov.uk/coronavirus)

If you or someone you know is vulnerable, shielding or self-isolating and has no friends or family to call on, please get in touch – we are here for you.

**We can help with:**

- collecting shopping or medication
- emergency parcels of basic food and toiletries for anyone who urgently needs food within 24 hours and has no money to buy
- support for anyone who is feeling isolated or needs extra help

You can also get help from your local community, go to [www.vas.org.uk/what-we-do/covid19/](https://www.vas.org.uk/what-we-do/covid19/) to find your nearest group.

We can't give medical advice, but if you have symptoms or are worried about your health, call 111 or go on-line at [111.nhs.uk](https://111.nhs.uk). Remember that the NHS is still there to help - in an emergency ring 999 or contact your GP.

Ring 0114 273 4567 or request help on-line [sheffield.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://sheffield.gov.uk/coronavirus)

**NHS** **vas** **STAY HOME PROTECT THE NHS SAVE LIVES** **Sheffield City Council**

## Sheffield City Council will support thousands of children and young people with free school meals during the Christmas break.

Vouchers of £35 per child are being sent out to everyone who receives free school meals. The scheme will also include parents of two year olds who are eligible for help with childcare, care leavers and families who are supported by social care services. This follows the Government announcement of a winter grant scheme to provide support with food and bills over the festive period.

Over 22,000 children in Sheffield are currently in receipt of free school meals and an additional 7000 children will also receive a voucher to help provide financial support over the holidays.

**If any parent/carer is struggling to access their voucher, please contact school in the first instance (up to 18th December) or call the council helpline on 0114 2734567.**

## **Christmas food in school**

Food offerings - The risk assessment from the council states that staff and children should not share food items in school to minimise the risks of Covid-19 infection/spread, so school is providing individually wrapped food items for each child to enjoy at the Christmas parties this year. We know how kind you are, and that you may want to help, but, for this reason, we will not need any food donations for the class parties this year and will not be distributing any food items that the children bring in. The children will still have a lovely time at their parties - we will store and handle school-bought food in accordance with health and safety guidelines to minimise risk, but also have fun too!

The reason for these decisions in school is because we want to do whatever we can to protect all our children from the risk of infection; Sheffield is still in the 'Very High' risk category and we very much want you and your families to have fun and stay safe at Christmas time.

## **NURSERY NEWS**

- We would be grateful if you could save your old Christmas cards and bring them to nursery in the new year.
- We also ask please that you send children with a warm winter coat, as the weather is very chilly and children spend a lot of time outside at nursery
- Please could you be ready to sign for your child's free early learning for next term. Jenette will be sending a form for you to sign in the next few days. Once you have done so, could you please return it to nursery as soon as possible.

## **Christmas Stars at Halfway Nursery Infant School!**

I hope you will agree that the children have been sensational this year - we really could not have asked for any more; they have returned to school ready to learn, excited to be with their friends again, have worked their socks off, and have been absolutely super! We are so proud of them.

They really did shine last week too in their Christmas Celebration performances on Zoom! The children and staff put their absolute heart and soul into their shows and, like many of you, I was overwhelmed with pride when I saw what they had achieved together. Thank you to everyone who joined us for the premieres on Zoom :-). I hope you have enjoyed watching the performances over and over again on Tapestry too. Well done, Halfway Nursery Infant School!

A big thank you to you for your support in 2020 - it has been a year of many challenges for so many, but also one where the children and the support from our families really has shone through. We really are privileged to have such an amazing school community, so may I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this year.

Also, a big shout out for the staff team here at Halfway - you have been exceptional this year, smiled throughout, and have done whatever it takes to try and keep the children as safe as we can throughout the pandemic. I am so lucky to work with such a dedicated and caring team who continue to put the children first - no matter what. Thank you.

On behalf of everyone at Halfway Nursery Infant School, we wish you all a very safe and merry Christmas and happy and healthy 2021.

With very best wishes,

Paula Bestall

Headteacher

# 12 Days of Christmas

## Holidays Challenge



Are you up for completing the 12 days of Christmas Holidays Challenge? To be in with a chance of winning some great prizes all you have to do is take part in some physical activity on each day of the Christmas holidays, write what you did in the boxes below and send a picture of you on social media to @movemoresheff and use the #HealthyElfieSelfie

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12



Children and young people should be active for at least 60 minutes every day.

This challenge is designed so that families can stay active during the Christmas holiday period.

Why not be creative and add a Christmas theme!



For ideas on how to get active head over to [www.sheffieldhealthyholidays.org](http://www.sheffieldhealthyholidays.org)



## 12 Days of Christmas Holidays Challenge



Draw a picture of you and your family being active this Christmas



### Healthy 'Elfie Selfie' Challenge

Ask your parent or guardian to send us a picture of you being active or eating something healthy and post it on Twitter using the #HealthyElfieSelfie and be in with a chance to win EVEN MORE prizes.

Why not be creative and add a Christmas theme!

### Christmas themed ideas to be active:

- Christmas Song - Danceathon
- Have a snow ball fight with socks - ask permission first
- Christmas Star jumps
- Winter Wellie Walks with the family - Go explore your local park/green space
- Create your own Christmas themed activity challenge/ game at home
- Make a Healthy Christmas snack or meal

If you're getting active remember to drink plenty of water



## 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.



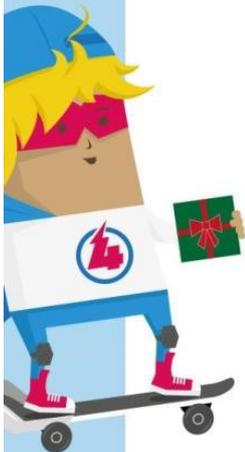
## CHRISTMAS MENU

# HALFWAY NURSERY & INFANT SCHOOL



## Christmas Menu

**15<sup>th</sup> December 2020**





## CHRISTMAS MENU

### Roast Turkey & Gravy

With Pork Chipolata

Or

### Quorn Roast & Gravy

With Vegetarian Sausage

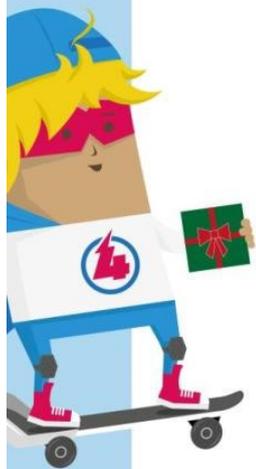
With

Roast Potatoes, Carrots or Peas

Snowball Crispy

Or

Fresh Fruit Salad





## News from Halfway Junior School

Friday 18th December

You may be aware from the news that all schools have been given the opportunity by the DfE to hold an INSET day on 18th December. However, our school will be remaining open as planned on this day in order to cause as little disruption to our pupils and families as possible.

Pinders – School Uniform Shop

Pinders Schoolwear are opening a new shop at Crystal Peaks today. The shop has moved from the Market Place and is now based in the West Mall of the main Centre, next door to the Halifax Bank and opposite New Look.

Social distancing reminder

At the start and end of the day, please remember to continue to maintain a distance from other families and allow them space to walk past when waiting outside the school gates and the year 6 classrooms.

Well done to everyone who is remembering their PE kits on their PE days. From January, some PE days have changed. Please see below for your PE days starting from the first week back in January:

Y3GM – Tuesday and Wednesday

Y3PH – Tuesday and Friday

Y4AB – Monday and Wednesday

Y4LH – Monday and Thursday

Y5KW/WL – Monday and Tuesday

Y5 CL/LO – Monday and Wednesday

Y6LW – Wednesday and Thursday

Y6PW – Tuesday and Friday

Christmas Reminders!

Christmas gifts made especially for you

The children are busy making individual Christmas gifts for you to buy.

- Year 3 are making a pack of 2 wooden Christmas tree decorations for £3
- Year 4 are making handmade glass candle holders for £3
- Year 5 are making Christmas wreaths for £3
- Year 6 are making moving Christmas carousels for £5.50

The option to buy your child's handmade product has been added to your ParentPay account today. The deadline to pay for your child's gift is Wednesday 16th December. Gifts will be sent home after this.

Christmas Parties

Each class will be having a Christmas party in the afternoon on the final day of term (Friday 18th December), culminating in a whole school Christmas quiz! School will provide everything needed for the parties. Children are welcome to come to school dressed in their party clothes or Christmas jumpers. However, please make sure they are wearing suitable clothing and footwear as they will still be playing outside for break and lunchtime.