



# Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 29th March 2021

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

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

|                             | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday                           | Thursday                            | Friday   |
|-----------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| What's Happening this Week? | Superkids (breakfast and after school) closed today | Parent/carer consultations via ZOOM<br>Superkids re-opens today | Parent/carer consultations via ZOOM | Parent/carer consultations via ZOOM | School and nursery closed—Good Friday and start of Easter holidays |
| And Next Week ?             | School and nursery closed                           | School and nursery closed                                       | School and nursery closed           | School and nursery closed           | School and nursery closed  |



**Attendance for the week ending 26th March 2021**

| Class               | Attendance (%) |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Enormous Crocodiles | 86.6           |
| Crafty Chameleons   |                |
| Rainbow Fish        |                |
| Hungry Caterpillars | 86.8           |
| Gruffalos           | 88.2           |
| Elmers              | 94.7           |

## Upcoming Diary Dates



|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Tuesday 30 March   | Parent/carer consultations via ZOOM<br>F2 Miss Hughes<br>Y1 Miss Kay/Mrs Hibberd   |
| Wednesday 31 March | Parent/carer consultations via ZOOM<br>Y1 Miss Dale<br>Y2 Mrs Briggs/Mrs Bettinson |
| Thursday 1 April   | Parent/carer consultations via ZOOM<br>F2 Mrs Timmons<br>Y2 Mrs Jordan             |
| Friday 2 April     | School and nursery closed for the Easter holidays                                  |



## Easter Holidays

School will be closed to all children from Friday 2nd April for the Easter holiday, with school re-opening for the new school term on Monday 19th April

### Please do not come to school if you are ill

As you are aware, we have had confirmed cases of Covid-19 in school recently. As well as looking for the three key symptoms, the virus can also present as cold like symptoms (including sore throat, runny nose, headache etc.) so please be cautious and keep your child at home if they are unwell. Thank you.

## **Easter Fun and Games**

We have a lovely week planned at school this week (and the weather to go with it!) with springtime and Easter activities linked to learning, including our annual Easter egg hunts! Please be assured that all activities will be great fun for the children but will also be in line with the current safety measures we have in place. For example, the actual chocolate treat the children will bring home to enjoy will not have been handled/found in the egg hunt this year to avoid food items being handled by others. The children will have great fun and won't even realise the extra little things that are in place that make a big difference to help keep them safe.

We are also expecting a sighting or two of a very special visitor hopping across the school grounds as they deliver treats for the children. The children don't know that this fluffy little Easter friend is visiting us though, as it will be a surprise, so ssssssssh...!!!

Please remember that school breaks up for Easter this **Thursday 1st April and returns on Monday 19th April.**

## **Sun safety**

Please remember to send your child/ren to school with their sunscreen applied (they can also bring their own named bottle when the weather requires this), and remember sunhats and water bottles please each day.

## **Extended services (Breakfast and After School Club)**

Our extended services will re-open tomorrow, 30th March.

## **Thursday's Dish of the Day**

Thursday's 'Dish of the Day' is **Fish Fingers.**

## **Easter supermarket vouchers**

Parents/carers of children who are eligible for income based Free School Meals should have received a letter last week with instructions about how to redeem the food vouchers for the Easter holiday period. However schools have received an email from the School Food Service today to say that they are experiencing problems with a few of the e-codes sent out which are currently being addressed. Please bear with them if you have had problems trying to redeem yours, and remember that you are able to call them on 0114 2734567, option 4, option 3 if you need any help during the holiday.

Sheffield City Council has produced a short 'How to...' video. The video has been updated since the February version.

The Video can be downloaded here:

<https://shared-assets.adobe.com/link/0b5c3581-23bc-4c5f-6fb2-5fb7713d0b26>

(Please note you need to open this in Chrome browser to download)

You can also link directly to the video on Youtube - <https://youtu.be/e1kZxcteciE>



## **Spring Term Parent/Carers' Consultations**

We hope that you have been able to sign up for your 10 minute Zoom appointment per child via the Eventbrite booking service. You should also have received the Zoom links that you will need to use for your appointment/s.

**Please use your child's surname to access the waiting room, where you can wait until the teacher is free.**

**Please note that appointment slots need to be strictly timed with the online system we are using, so please ensure that you have accessed the appropriate ZOOM link in time to start your appointment.**

We really do miss our face to face chats that we used to have with you each day, but also know it is not possible to have these conversations in person at the present time due to the safety measures we need to have in place. We hope this will give you an opportunity to catch up with staff to find out how your child is doing... and we cannot wait to tell you how proud we are of him/her!

Our Nursery staff will be making phone calls home to speak to parents/carers about how their child has settled back into nursery, how they are progressing, and how we are helping them with their next steps. These calls will now be continuing after the Easter holiday.

### **A reminder of the parent/carer consultation timetable for school**

| <b>F2</b>                        | <b>F2</b>                        | <b>Y1</b>                        | <b>Y1</b>                          | <b>Y2</b>                            | <b>Y2</b>                        |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Miss Hughes</b>               | <b>Mrs Timmons</b>               | <b>Miss Kay/<br/>Mrs Hibberd</b> | <b>Miss Dale</b>                   | <b>Mrs Briggs/<br/>Mrs Bettinson</b> | <b>Mrs Jordan</b>                |
| All day<br>Tuesday 30th<br>March | All day<br>Thursday 1st<br>April | All day<br>Tuesday 30th<br>March | All day<br>Wednesday<br>31st March | All day<br>Wednesday<br>31st March   | All day<br>Thursday 1st<br>April |

### **Covid-19 updates from the Local Authority**



#### **Covid safety advice for parents**

We know how hard you are all working to keep your families safe during the pandemic and really do appreciate your support helping to keep our school community safe. Greg Fell, Sheffield's Director of Public Health, has written to all parents across Sheffield and urged them and their children to keep following Covid guidance.

Following the return to school, the Council has asked us to share that they have received city wide concerns about:

- children having sleepovers and playdates at friends' houses
- children with symptoms not getting tests and being sent to school
- a lack of social distancing

As these could cause an increase in cases and stop our roadmap out of lockdown, the Council has, therefore, created a video for parents/carers. Please click below to watch the full video from Greg Fell -

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?utm_content&utm_medium=email&utm_name&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term&v=BZwdQzv3II&feature=youtu.be)

[utm\\_content&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term&v=BZwdQzv3II&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?utm_content&utm_medium=email&utm_name&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term&v=BZwdQzv3II&feature=youtu.be)

### **Staying safe outside school**

School bubbles are only safe in school because of all the other protective measures we have in place like ventilation, extra cleaning, keeping groups separate, face coverings for adults in communal areas/where social distancing is difficult etc. The Council would like to reiterate that children should not mix with their school bubble outside of school as it is unlikely that these measures are in place elsewhere.

One in three people don't have symptoms and can spread Coronavirus without realising. In addition, most cases (70%) are caught in the home as the virus spreads much more easily indoors when people are in close contact for longer.

We know most people are being responsible - thank you for everything you're doing to keep yourself and others safe.

### **The difference between Covid tests**

As you may be aware, as a parent/carer you can now order Testing kits to use at home. These are a great way to identify people who are asymptomatic (people who have the virus but have no symptoms). However the Lateral Flow Device test is not to be used when an individual has any symptoms of illness (therefore, cannot be used to check if someone has Covid-19 if they are already feeling unwell). Pre-school children and primary-aged pupils do not need to be tested regularly. However, staff are able to take part in the asymptomatic testing programme.

With so many rules we are being asked to follow, there is some confusion between the two types of Covid test available, so Sheffield City Council has shared the following guidance to help.

The rapid LFD tests that you can do at home do not replace PCR tests given at Covid test sites.

Please do not use LFD tests if you or anyone in your family have any Covid symptoms, even if they're not very bad. The main symptoms are:

- a high temperature
- a cough that won't stop
- a change or loss in taste/smell

These symptoms should not be ignored under any circumstances, even if you get a negative LFD test at home. You must self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test online at [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or by calling 119.

### **Testing for households, childcare or support bubbles of pupils of schools, nurseries and colleges**

If you're a member of a household, childcare bubble, or support bubble of a pupil, student or staff of a school, nursery or college, you can get two LFD tests a week.

You will be asked to:

- take a test twice a week (3 to 5 days apart)
- report every result to NHS Test and Trace on the same day you take it. You can report online at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> or by calling 119

Tests can be accessed in several ways:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site – find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site at NHS: Covid Test Finder
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site – find your nearest home test kit collection point at NHS: Rapid Test Collection Covid Test Finder
- by ordering a home test kit online – this service is only for people who cannot get a test through the methods above. Order rapid lateral flow home test kits online at GOV.UK: Schools testing

If anyone tests positive or gets coronavirus symptoms, they should tell the school, self-isolate immediately and get a PCR test from the NHS to confirm the result.

A negative result means the test did not find signs of coronavirus.  
However, this does not guarantee you do not have coronavirus.

### **Testing and self-isolation if your child has symptoms**

Do not send your child to nursery, childminder, school or college if:

- they are showing one or more symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- someone in their household is showing symptoms
- someone in their support bubble has symptoms and they have been in close contact with them since the symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started
- They, or someone in their household, has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)
- they are required to quarantine having recently visited a red list travel ban country.

If you or your child develop symptoms, self-isolate immediately and book a test at [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or by calling 119. Then inform your nursery, childminder, school or college of the results.

If the test is positive, continue to self-isolate for 10 days from the day symptoms started and engage with NHS Test and Trace.

Other household members (including any siblings) should self-isolate from the day you or your child's symptoms started (or the day they took a test if they did not have symptoms) and the next 10 full days.

If your child or someone in your household has tested positive while not experiencing symptoms but develops symptoms during the isolation period, they should restart the 10-day isolation period from the day they developed symptoms.

If your child displays symptoms at school they need to be collected by a member of their family/household.

If your child has been a close contact of someone who has tested positive and then develops symptoms but has a negative test result, they will still need to self-isolate for the full 10 days from the day after contact with the person who tested positive.

### **When your child does not need a test**

Your child does not need a test if they:

- have a runny nose, are sneezing or feeling unwell but do not have a temperature, cough or loss/change in smell or taste
- are advised to self-isolate because they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), for example, another pupil in their class, but are not showing symptoms themselves.

Please note - As the new variant of Covid-19 has wider ranging symptoms, we urge you to send your child to school only if they are well to help us to keep our community safe. Please do not send your child to school if they have a cold, sore throat or aches etc.

If your child is identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Coronavirus and is asked to self-isolate, other household members do not need to self-isolate unless your child develops symptoms.

Please help nurseries, childminders, schools, and colleges to create the safest possible environments by following this advice and the wider public health advice and guidance.

### **Test and Trace Support Payments Update**

Parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a Test and Trace Support Payment or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria.

Use this link for more information or to find out if you are eligible—<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/your-city-council/coronavirus-hub/coronavirus-apply-test-trace-support-payment>

**Well, I believe that is all the information we need to share for this term! A huge THANK YOU to you all for your support over the term - I know it has been a challenging one in many ways for everyone with the national lockdown and school closures etc., but you all did such an amazing job juggling your own commitments in addition to home schooling etc. A massive thank you also to our staff who have all worked so hard to keep your children safe, happy and learning and lastly, but not least, to our exceptional children who have been superstars! We are so proud of you!**

**Please find some time over the Easter holiday to celebrate how brilliant you have all been, and have some quality down time together as a family (...as well as perhaps enjoying a few Easter eggs!) Stay safe and have a fantastic break.**

**Wishing you all a very Happy Easter. Paula Bestall**