



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 22nd November 2021

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
What's Happening this Week?	F2 Big PE Day		Y2 Big PE Day Y1 Christmas Song and Dance Club	Y1 Big PE Day Y2 Football Club 1:30pm School tour for F2s due to start school in 2022	
And Next Week ?	F2 Big PE Day		Y2 Big PE Day Y1 Christmas Song and Dance Club 9:30am School tour for F2s due to start school in 2022	Y1 Big PE Day Y2 Football Club Nursery Meet The Teacher 9.15 am to 10.45am	Nursery Meet The Teacher 9.15 am to 10.45am

School attendance figures

**Attendance for the week ending
19th November 2021:**

Class	Attendance (%)
Enormous Crocodiles	93.9
Crafty Chameleons	97.0
Rainbow Fish	89.5
Hungry Caterpillars	91.0
Gruffalos	93.7
Elmers	98.3

Overall attendance for the week was 94.1%

School Admission Deadline

For families applying for primary school places for reception, or to start junior school, the closing date is getting closer - please see the following link for more information <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 in April 2022.

School tours for parents/carers applying for school places for Sept. 2022

If you, or someone you know, would like to find out more about our school ahead of F2/Reception applications being submitted, please view our website as it offers a wealth of information, including virtual tours of school and our parent/carer prospectus. We are also planning outdoor visits for small groups of parents/carers of nursery aged children to book on to, should parents/carers require any more information/if they are unfamiliar with our school and wish to visit before applying for F2 places. Places can be booked through our school office for the following visits: **1:30pm on 25th Nov or 9:30am on Wed 1st Dec.**

Mrs Shepherd, the Headteacher at Halfway Junior School, has also been in touch with school today to share her plans for parents/carers to find out more about the Junior School in preparation for applying for Y3 places. Parents/carers of our current Y2 children will be sent a letter from the Juniors to detail the plans when they have finalised dates/arrangements.

Children in Need

The children looked amazing on Friday in their Pudsey PE kits, and they had a great time working out with Joe Wicks on Friday morning in school and nursery (...we do not know about the children, but the staff were pretty exhausted by Friday lunchtime!).

Thank you so much to all of you who, in these difficult times, were able to donate to our Just Giving page. We have raised a magnificent **£338** at the time of writing, all of which will go straight to Children in Need. Thank you again for all your support.



View gallery
Change cover

169%

£338
raised of £200 target
by 67 supporters

Give Now
Share

Paula Bestall
Halfway Nursery Infant School
Fundraising for BBC Children in Need

BBC Children in Need
Schools Primary
run by BBC Children in Need
Together we can have fun, keep learning and raise money!

Charity Registration No. 802052 (England, Wales) SC039957 (Scotland)

A big thank you to our School Council which organised the day, including a 'design a Pudsey T-shirt' competition. All the children did brilliantly and I think we have future fashion designers in the making. It was such a tough decision for our School Councillors when they chose the 2 winners from each class, but, after lots of discussions, the winning designs of a special Pudsey badge in each year group are.... *drum roll please*....

Year 2

Year 1

Reception



Thank you for helping us to make a difference to children across the UK.

'Positive Bedtimes' session for parents/carers

Our MAST link worker, Diane, has offered to lead a session for a small group of parents/carers to support children's sleep and positive bedtime routines, covering topics such as 'sleepy' foods, how many hours sleep children need, top tips for a successful night's sleep and a question and answer session.

The feedback from parents/carers who attended a similar session at a local school was extremely positive. If you would be interested in attending a similar session at our school please contact the school office so we can organise this for you.

If there are other topics about which you would like sessions, such as diet, toileting, managing challenging behaviour, please also inform the school office.

Home Learning PE Challenge

Challenge: How many bunny jumps can you do in 15 seconds? Can you repeat this challenge 3 times, trying to beat your score each time?

No equipment needed. You will need a big enough space so that you can do this safely.

Physical fact: Practising jumping is really important for your balance and stability. It is also good cardio exercise.

Fun Fact: A dolphin is the highest jumping animal for the high jump at 22.9ft.



School Tea Towels and Coasters

The children have all drawn a self-portrait to make a design for a 100% cotton tea towel. The tea towels are 79cm x 51cm and are printed in royal blue.

The tea towels are £3.50 each. They're all the same, so if you have more than one child at our school, both/all their faces will be on the same tea towel.

You can also order a coaster, with just your child's face on, for £3.

If you would like to order, please keep an eye on your phone, as we will be sending out separate texts, one for tea towels and one for coasters, for you to order as many as you like of each. After ordering, you will be directed to our hnipay site, to pay via PayPal.

Orders must be received and paid for by Monday 29 November.

(Any orders that aren't paid for will need to be cancelled)

Unfortunately, we cannot accept any late orders, as late orders will have missed the print deadline. We're sorry for the tight deadline, but we want to be sure that orders are back before we break up for the Christmas holidays!



A REMINDER OF OUR CHRISTMAS PLANS 2021

Our whole staff team is committed to making Christmas 2021 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 in our local area to make a difference in our local community this Christmas time.

We have planned opportunities that we hope will bring joy to many, whilst continuing to keep everyone as safe as we can. Greg Fell (Director of Public Health in Sheffield) recently wrote to parents/carers and stated, "Like the rest of the country, Sheffield is now seeing higher case rates in school age pupils, and this is to be expected. We want to ensure that we continue to manage transmission of the virus as much as possible and reduce the number of cases. This means that, unfortunately, some things are not completely back to 'normal'. I realise that many of you will be disappointed as we approach Christmas that schools may not always be able to put in place some of the things that you are familiar with happening around this time of year. Settings have been asked to continue to reduce the numbers of events and meetings involving large numbers of pupils, parents/carers and staff. This means that parents' evenings may run virtually and, as Christmas approaches, schools will be carefully considering if events can go ahead. The Council understands that this will be disappointing for some, but stressed that it is an important measure to help reduce transmission of COVID-19."

All schools are different and, therefore, the Christmas plans for each school may vary - for example, each school may be managing different Covid-19 case rates and each also has different logistical/practical considerations to make as they plan events (such as available space, and whether spaces are well ventilated and meet risk assessment requirement for large groups etc.). We love Christmas and opportunities to share the spirit of it with our families, and have taken into account our own setting as we planned lots of lovely events that minimise the risk, but also, really importantly, also maximise the FUN for our children too!

There will not be any charges made by school for any of the following events as we want all our children to be free to enjoy the festive fun! We hope you agree that the children will have a lovely time and will, hopefully, enjoy a little magic at Halfway Nursery Infant School this Christmas!

Please see a timetable of events attached to this newsletter for useful dates and times etc. for you to plan the festive season. Here, also, is a quick run down of some of the events below:

1. Mini Carol Concerts

School aged children will be rehearsing and learning a selection of Christmas songs to perform in a short concert for their parents/carers. These concerts will be outside (so are, therefore, weather dependent) and will be around 15min in length. Please wrap up warm to enjoy them! (NB - These will be outside as singing is seen as a 'higher risk' activity in school due to possible Covid-19/ aerosol transmission, and also because our hall is small and has limited ventilation as the windows are awaiting replacement from the council due to their age).

2. Filmed performances for parents/carers

Each year group (Nursery to Y2) will be putting together a Nativity/Christmas performance for parents/carers which we hope will be a real celebration. These 'Christmas Celebration' performances will be pre-filmed, and we will have a special Halfway Nursery Infant 'premier' to show each film for the first time over Zoom! Parents/carers will be invited to join the Zoom session with their child to watch their class performance from home. 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 year group will receive a Zoom invitation.

3. Santa

After writing him letters later this half term, we will be asking Santa very nicely if he will have time to see each class via the wonders of modern technology and host class Zoom calls again this year. We're not sure when his very special video calls will be (as Santa is very busy this season!) but we hope that all our children enjoy the opportunity to Zoom with Santa again this year. We will let you know when he has checked his diary.

4. 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, and to the very kind volunteers who are busy wrapping them at the moment. The elves are pulled out with it this year...). These will be safely stored in school before being given to the children.

5. Christmas Cards from home

We are pleased to say that schools have been advised that children are able to bring in cards from home this year to send to their friends. We hope this will be a lovely opportunity for the children to find a reason to write, as we were not able to do this last year due to restrictions. There will be an 'Elf Express' postal service available from the 6th December for the children to exchange cards with their friends (the cards will be saved for the recommended period of time before being delivered, which is in line with the Covid-19 events risk assessment).

Although we know how much some children enjoy sending and receiving cards, we are also keen to be more environmentally friendly too, and, therefore, suggest that children just consider making one very special card with a Christmas message on for their entire class rather than lots of individual cards.

6. Christmas Jumper Day for Save for Children – Friday 10th December

Children can wear a Christmas jumper if they wish. This is the only activity in school where we ask you to consider whether you are able to give a voluntary monetary £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. The Just Giving link: <https://donate.justgiving.com/donation-amount?uri=aHR0cHM6Ly9kb25hdGUtYXBpLmp1c3RnaXZpbmcuY29tL2FwaS9kb25hdGlvbnMvZjYyODZkOGQ2NWFjNGQyYWFhMDI3ODI3NmZiNjgwMmQ=>. Unfortunately, Just Giving only accepts donations of £2 or more, so why not team up with another parent/carer to make your donation?

7. Christmas Dinner Day - Wednesday 15th December

Children to wear school uniform please, and they can bring a Christmas hat, headband, tinsel accessory etc. to wear on their head if they would like to.

8. Christmas Party Days – Tuesday 14th December (Nursery) and Friday 17th December (F2, Y1, Y2)

Children can wear a Christmas jumper or party clothes and will have individually wrapped items of food (for safety we will not be sharing food). All classes will have party games and dancing, a film and other Christmassy activities. If your child does not usually attend their nursery session on a Tuesday, but you would like them to attend the party, please contact Jenette so that she can add your child to the list. We will confirm at a later date the times that you will need to drop off and pick up your child.

Giving to others at Christmas time

As a staff team, we would like to try and support local families in need and so staff are invited to donate new toys to local children/families this year instead of sending one another Christmas cards or exchanging more extravagant Secret Santa gifts. If you are able to/feel that you would also like to donate a new toy for a local child and support a local charity as they distribute toys, please bring your donations (in original packaging with any safety labels still attached please) to school 6th to 9th 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 ready for distribution.

Each class will also be invited to work together to bring in donations by 10th December to help make special Christmas dinner hampers for a local food bank/charity to deliver to a local family in need this Christmas time (more information overleaf about the items they would love to receive to help make the hampers). If you are having difficulties and would also like some information about the support and services of local food banks, such as these Christmas hampers, please contact me on 0114 2482360.

Thank you for all your continued support, Paula Bestall, Headteacher

CHRISTMAS DINNER HAMPERS

Christmas may be a difficult time for you this year. Money may be a little bit tighter than normal. Therefore, Westfield Big Local and the S20 Food Bank are partnering together again to provide a Christmas meal hamper for a £5 donation to any individual or family who may need it, with the hope that it takes a just little of the stress out of this Christmas for anyone in the S20 area.

The plan is to be able to deliver a hamper that is full of ingredients needed to create the perfect Christmas lunch. The hamper is hopefully big enough to feed roughly up to 6 people.

The hampers consist of:

- Soup
- A frozen turkey
- Stuffing
- Gravy
- Fresh vegetables (potatoes, brussel sprouts, carrots & peas)
- Christmas pudding
- Custard
- A sparkling juice
- Mince pies
- Christmas Crackers
- Biscuits
- Defrosting and cooking instructions for the turkey



If you think that money may be a bit light for you this Christmas and would like to receive one of these hampers, for collection or delivery on Thursday 23rd December 2021 then please contact Paula Beckett

paula.beckett@biglocalwestfield.org.uk

Tel: 07837 829 399



Applications will need to be received by Friday 10th December 2021 to give us plenty of time to source the necessary items.



if you would be willing to donate some of the above items to us in order to make the hampers please bring them to Westfield Community Centre, S20 8ND

CHRISTMAS DIARY

w\b Monday 6 December	Children can bring in their Christmas cards from today. To help protect the environment, children may want to bring just one special card to everyone in the class, that can be displayed in the classroom
w\b Monday 6 December	Christmas Hamper appeal. Each class will put together a Christmas Box for a local family to enjoy. If you'd like to donate, please look out for more information about this over the coming weeks
w\b Monday 6 December	Toy collection: If you would like to donate a new and unwrapped toy, please put it in the PlayPod (the blue shed in the yard) by 9 December
Thursday 9 December	Toy collection: please bring any toy donations by today
Friday 10 December	1. S20 Food Bank/Westfield Big Local 'Christmas Dinner Hamper' food items in school by this date please 2. 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) If you are able to, please donate via: https://donate.justgiving.com/donation-amount?uri=aHR0cHM6Ly9kb25hdGUtYXBpLmp1c3RnaXZpbmcuY29tL2FwaS9kb25hdGlvbnMvZiYyODZkOGQ2NWFjNGQyYWZhMDI3ODI3NmZiNjgwMmMwQ=
Monday 13 December, 4.30pm	Nursery Zoom pre-filmed Christmas performance – a link will be sent to the email address we use for sending newsletters
Tuesday 14 December, 9.15am	Y2 Mini Carol Concert—in the yard, weather permitting!
Tuesday 14th December	Nursery Christmas Party Day – morning and afternoon sessions. Children can wear a Christmas jumper or party clothes (no 'fancy dress' outfits please)
Tuesday 14 December, 4pm	Y2 Zoom pre-filmed Christmas performance – a link will be sent to the email address we use for sending newsletters
Wednesday 15 December, 9.15am	Y1 Mini Carol Concert—in the yard, weather permitting!
Wednesday 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.
Wednesday 15 December, 4pm	Y1 Zoom pre-filmed Christmas performance – a link will be sent to the email address we use for sending newsletters
Thursday 16 December, 2.30pm	F2 Mini Carol Concert—in the yard, weather permitting!
Thursday 16 December, 4pm	F2 Zoom pre-filmed Christmas performance – a link will be sent to the email address we use for sending newsletters
Friday 17 December	School Christmas Party Day (F2-Y2). Children can wear a Christmas jumper or party clothes (no 'fancy dress' outfits please) Last day of term.
*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.	