



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 22nd February 2021

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

Good afternoon, and welcome to the second half of the spring term at Halfway Nursery Infant School!

The weather last week was much milder than the wintry weather we had experienced at the beginning of the month, and I hope you managed to enjoy some well deserved time outside, away from home learning/school/work (or a combination of the above!).

I am sure that many of us will be keenly watching the TV tonight as the Prime Minister is due to set out in a news conference at 7pm a 'cautious' plan/roadmap to lift lockdown, including plans for schools. We will share the plans relating to schools with you once the government has confirmed arrangements, and also when advice has been provided by Sheffield City Council.

School crossing update

Our local Member of Parliament, Clive Betts, has asked the school to share with you the letter attached to this newsletter. This gives an update on progress in providing a pedestrian crossing facility on Station Road. The letter also invites your feedback on the plans.

Supporting your children's remote education during COVID-19

The following advice is taken from the DfE guidance for parents/carers which has recently been updated - https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=2cb9faab-867f-488f-8831-05616e0ac796&utm_content=daily

We know this is a challenging time for parents, carers and children. Remote education has brought new demands for all of us, and has changed engagement and interaction between home and school. We know that many parents and carers are balancing various responsibilities whilst supporting their children with education at home; you are doing a great job so far and we are here to support you and your children in this!

What you should expect for your child's remote education

Schools have been working hard to deliver high quality remote education. They are now expected to publish information about their remote education offer on their websites which will help you to understand:

- what your child will be studying at home
- how you can support your child to engage with their remote curriculum

(You can find this information on the school website at <https://www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org/remote-learning>)

The remote education that schools provide should be equivalent in length to the teaching your child would normally receive in school. You should expect this to include a mixture of:

- recorded or live direct teaching time
- time for pupils to complete activities independently, such as working through learning, PE, or reading in a comfortable space.

Continued overleaf

Remote education should be suitably tailored if your child has special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Please speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions about this. ***(Our SENCo, Jo Lomas, is also available on Tues/Wed/Fridays if you want to speak to her regarding personalised learning provision whilst learning at home.)***

The amount of remote education DfE has asked schools to deliver is a minimum of:

- key stage 1 to have 3 hours a day, on average across the cohort, with fewer hours for younger children
- key stage 2 should receive 4 hours a day
- key stages 3 and 4 to receive 5 hours a day

Schools have been asked to have a system in place to check pupils' engagement with work on a daily basis. At our school, this includes -

- monitoring pupils' attendance at live or recorded lessons
- checking that pupils have understood and completed their work by monitoring and feeding back work parents/carers upload onto Tapestry
- direct contact with parents/pupils e.g. recording when they have made a phone call home and if a learning pack has been delivered etc.

Supporting your child during remote education

We know our parents/carers are doing a great job managing remote learning alongside their own commitments. There should be ample learning set by school each day for your child, however the DfE has shared a list of resources shown below in case you would find it helpful to access these alongside the work provided by school (these are all optional but are there in case you need them). If you need further support or help at home, please speak to your child's teacher about remote education.

1. DfE support list on 'Engaging children at home' -

√ Clinical Psychologist, Dr Elizabeth Kilbey, shares practical tips for parents to support remote learning in this new video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&v=KZaC3Jsgb4Q

√ The Education Endowment Fund has produced support resources for parents. These include ways to support your child's reading at home and advice on how to establish a routine with your child

2. Mental health and wellbeing

You can read guidance for parents and carers on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Guidance for the public on the mental health and wellbeing aspects of coronavirus (COVID-19) is also available.

The following organisations offer information and support on mental health and wellbeing:

Place2Be

MindEd

Every Mind Matters

Public Health England

Bereavement UK and the Childhood Bereavement

Youth Sport Trust and Sport England

Young Minds

Think Ninja

Barnardo's See, Hear, Respond Support Hub

Your local library can also provide access to Reading Well: books on prescription, a collection of carefully curated titles for adults, children and young people to support common mental health conditions, or deal with difficult feelings and experiences. Find your local library to join up and borrow them.

Continued overleaf

Young people can get free, confidential support at any time from government-backed voluntary and community sector organisations by:

- texting SHOUT to 85258
- calling Childline on 0800 1111
- calling the Mix on 0808 808 4994

3. Resources for parents of children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

- COVID-19 educational resources from The Sensory Projects
- SEND-specific resources for learning from home from Tech Ability
- advice on supporting children with a learning disability or autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) from the Council for Disabled Children
- resources for under 5s from the Early Years Alliance

Curriculum materials are also available -

- specialist content for pupils with SEND from Oak National Academy
- SEND-specific BBC resources and activities

Online safety

It is important to have regular conversations about staying safe online, which amongst other things, include conversations about the importance of keeping any log-in credentials and passwords safe.

Encourage children to speak to you if they come across something worrying online. Support for parents and carers to keep children and young people safe from online harm is available. This includes resources to help you to talk to your child about a range of online safety issues, support to set up home filtering in a child-friendly way and support to set up age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices.

Please note - we have also shared guides and safety expectations with you to help keep your child safe if you choose to access the online Zoom lessons. Please ask us if you would like to find out more.

Barnados also has useful tips for parents/carers on how to keep your children safe online too if you would like further information—<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/blog/tips-to-keep-your-child-safe-online>

Parents' Evening Meetings and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Review Meetings

Our SENCo, Jo Lomas, has been contacting parents/carers who have a child on our SEND register to arrange the next SEND reviews. The review meetings will be held over the next couple of weeks, and will take place over Zoom.

Towards the end of this half term, we are also planning on hosting Parents'/Carers' Meetings for all children. Ideally, we would like to arrange these a few weeks after all the children return to school so we that can talk about how they have settled back into school, and discuss their wellbeing and learning. Arrangements will be shared with you nearer the time once the government and Sheffield City Council has confirmed plans for schools re-opening in full. In the meantime, please continue to contact your child's class teacher via Tapestry to discuss your child's learning. We will also continue to make phone calls home to say hello and check if there is any support you need, but please do not hesitate to ring the office 9am-3pm if you have any questions, or need any help.

PE Challenge 4!

Here is the next fortnightly PE challenge for the children—to have fun as they get fit!

- **Can you practise throwing and catching a ball? Can you throw it to someone in your house and then ask them to throw it and you carefully catch it?**

Free School Meals

Please note that food vouchers for children who are not attending school/nursery at present and who are entitled to income based Free School Meals will receive their next supermarket vouchers by the beginning of next week.

Stay safe and stay well

Take care

Paula Bestall



CLIVE BETTS MP

**PO Box 6031
Sheffield
S12 9EQ
(Temporary)**

**Tel: 0114-2757788
officeofclivebettsmp@parliament.uk
facebook.com/MPforshfieldsoutheast**

February 2020

Ref:CJCB/HAC

Dear Parent,

You will be aware for the past 10 years Cllr Tony Downing and I have been campaigning to get a crossing outside Halfway School to improve the safety of children and parents when crossing what is a very busy and difficult road.

Back in October, the then Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport, Cllr Bob Johnson, gave the go-ahead for a crossing to be installed and instructed that work be started on looking at suitable design arrangements. Cllr Tony Downing has recently had a meeting with Bob Johnson who is now the Leader of the Council, and Highway officers to discuss the possibilities that we can move ahead with them.

There are some challenges around the location of the crossing which I will explain, and I have been talking to Cllr Tony Downing about. The first is that it cannot be too close to the roundabout because cars travel quickly off the roundabout, particularly on the slip road at the side of it, and as they are looking right to see traffic coming off the roundabout, they then would have to look quickly ahead and see a crossing immediately in front of them and that would not be safe.

A crossing immediately outside the school is not possible because the pavements are too narrow and you could not take part of the road away because the road is fairly narrow at that point as well. I think anyone who has walked on the pavement there knows exactly what the situation is.

What is being considered therefore, and what we want to get your views on, is to put the crossing a little bit further down towards the Westfield Southway/Halfway Drive junction. That is a bit further away from the school but we know many people walk on there into the Westfield Estate. At the same time, however, to ensure there is something provided outside the school, there would be road humps and a "Slow" sign erected immediately at that point which would add to the safety of the situation and also slow vehicles down before they get to the crossing.

I hope I have explained clearly what the situation is and that the Council is absolutely committed to going ahead with the works but within the constraints I have just explained.

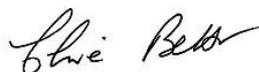
What we would like to hear from you, and please either email us or write to us, give us a ring or go on my Facebook page shown above and let us have your views about whether

1. you believe a crossing should go ahead at the location we have proposed;
2. you believe the traffic calming measures outside the school should go ahead; and
3. whether you think both should go ahead together.

We obviously want to see great support for this scheme because it is going to cost an awful lot of money and we want to make sure it is going to do the job and satisfy you, the parents, and your children who are the most important people, along with the staff of the school, of course, who are also going to be given this information.

A letter is being emailed to you with the consent of the Head and the Governors, because we have talked to the Head and we know how important she, and the Governors, feel about the crossing being put in place.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clive Betts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and 'B'.

Clive Betts MP
Sheffield South East

Cllr. Tony Downing - tony.downing@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk – Tel: 07979 471182