



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 15th November 2021

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
What's Happening this Week?	F2 Big PE Day Odd Socks Day/Anti Bullying Week		Y2 Big PE Day Y1 Christmas Song and Dance Club	Y1 Big PE Day Flu' immunisations (F2,Y1,Y2 only) Y2 Football Club	Children in Need— children to wear PE kits/ sports clothes (yellow/ spotty/Pudsey clothing or accessories optional too!)
And Next Week ?	F2 Big PE Day		Y2 Big PE Day Y1 Christmas Song and Dance Club	Y1 Big PE Day Y2 Football Club	

School attendance figures

Attendance for the week ending 12th November 2021:

Class	Attendance (%)
Enormous Crocodiles	94.7
Crafty Chameleons	97.5
Rainbow Fish	95.7
Hungry Caterpillars	96.3
Gruffalos	100
Elmers	94.8

Overall attendance for the week was 96.6%

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 Wed 17th Nov, 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.

CHRISTMAS PLANS 2021 – Sharing the magic of Christmas!

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 COVID19."

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=aHR0cHM6Ly9kb25hdGUtYXBpLmp1c3RnaXZpbmduY29tL2FwaS9kb25hdGlvbnMvZiYyODZkOGQ2NWFjNGQyYWFhMDI3ODI3NmZiNjgwMmQ=>. 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 15th 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.

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 to make a special Christmas hamper for a local food bank charity to deliver to a local family in need this Christmas time (more information to come about this). If you are having difficulties and would also like some information about the support and services that the local food banks, such as these Christmas hampers, please contact me on 0114 2482360.

Health and Wellbeing Section

Fabulous first aiders!

F2 to Y2 were Mini First Aid superstars last week when we had first aid training for our school aged children. The age appropriate sessions were based on an alien family who were very accident prone indeed, and children took part in physical activities which also taught them basic first aid strategies. Children across school learnt how to make a call to the emergency services in a race to find the rocket telephone, completed a first aid kit relay and learnt how to apply a bandage. Our Y2 pupils also learnt about the recovery position and what to do to help if someone was choking through demonstration on an 'astronaut vest'. You were all brilliant children and the coaches were so impressed by your sensible attitudes—and your excellent behaviour. Well done!

Anti-bullying Week 2021

It is Anti-Bullying Week this week (Monday 15th - Friday 19th November) and the children will be taking part in activities throughout the course of the week to reinforce this year's theme - 'One Kind Word'. We have started the week off with Odd Socks Day today which has been a great opportunity to kick start the week and encourage our children to express themselves, and also to celebrate their individuality and what makes them unique.

Please note, we have chosen not to fund raise for anti-bullying organisations today as we will be raising money for Children in Need on Friday and are mindful of the financial pressures some families may face — the children will still take part in all the fun and the anti-bullying activities throughout the week. Please look out for further information on Tapestry this week.

Also....See the 7 Day Kindness Challenge attached to this newsletter—a kindness challenge for each day of the week!

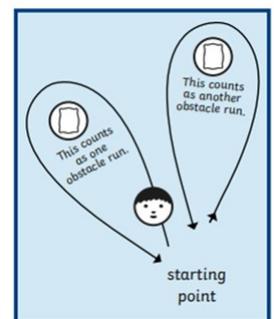
Home Learning PE Challenge

Challenge: Place the obstacles around a space and choose a starting place somewhere else. How many obstacles can you run around in 30 seconds? Count each time you run around one of your obstacles. Make sure you run right around each one!

Equipment: Up to 6 small, safe items to run around, e.g. cushion, soft toy, balled-up socks.

Physical fact: Running around obstacles can help develop your agility and balance. It is also a great cardio activity.

Fun fact: Ninja Warrior is a long-running series that started in Japan, where competitors try to complete a tough obstacle course.



Flu Immunisations in school for F2/Y1/Y2 children only - 18th November

Some parents/carers have asked about the flu immunisation process. The immunisations are delivered to F2/Y1/Y2 children by a company called IntraHealth, on behalf of the NHS. Whether you want your child to receive the vaccine or not, please read this message from IntraHealth: "Dear Parent\Carer, If you would like your child to receive the nasal flu vaccine in school please follow this link to complete an online consent form; <https://www.nhsimms.uk/FLU/information?id=107038&Type=FLU> The vaccinations will take place at your child's school on 18/11/2021. The link will close on 15/11/2021. If your child has already had the Nasal Flu vaccine since Sept 2021 please disregard this message. If you have any problems accessing the link please telephone 0333 358 3397 (opt 2)"

Through the above link you will be directed to a secure web portal unique to our school. Following the link, you will be able to complete your child's details and submit a consent or non-consent form.

The immunisations are organised by Intrahealth and, therefore, the information needs to be submitted directly to it through the link provided above (not to school—although schools are asked to offer a space for immunisations to be administered by Intrahealth, we do not organise the immunisations or handle information relating to them). The information you submit through the link will go directly to the immunisation team for review. If you have any questions about the flu vaccination programme, please contact them directly on 0333 358 3397.

Lastly, please do not forget that it is Children in Need on Friday!

Last year, Children in Need supported over 460,000 children and young people affected by a whole range of disadvantages such as poverty, disability, illness, distress or trauma. The School Councillors and Miss Dale have planned the day for us this year so we can help to make a difference too. All children in Nursery and School are able to wear sports kits to school on Friday 19th November so they are all prepared to 'Work it out with Joe Wicks' at 9:30am (this consists of exercise and also a quiz). Children are also welcome to wear optional spotty/ yellow/Pudsey related accessories with their outdoor sports kit if they have any!

School Council have also organised a 'design a Pudsey T-shirt' competition which the children will complete in school time, with 2 winners from each class winning a special Pudsey badge and also having their photo/design featured in the newsletter as the prize (School Councillors will judge the competition for their own class—good luck everyone!). You are encouraged to donate £1 (or whatever you feel able to give) to help us to raise money for the charity—please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cin21-0010416> to donate and help to change children's lives across the UK too.

Thank you for all your continued support.

Paula Bestall

Headteacher

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	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=aHR0cHM6Ly9kb25hdGUtYXBpLmp1c3RnaXZpbmV292tL2FwaS9kb25hdGlvbnMvZiYyODZkOGQ2NWFjNGQyYWFhMDI3ODI3NmZiNjgwMmQ=
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 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!
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)
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.	

7-Day Kindness Challenge



#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

Challenge yourself to become a kinder human during anti-bullying week. Can you complete a kind act each day?

- Complete a kindness challenge each day. How did it make you feel?
- There are also some small steps that make a big difference. Try to do all of these every day!
- Take a look at a daily kindness question. These will help you talk with family and friends about how important it is to be a kind human.

Monday

Help someone tidy up or clean.

Smile more.

What is the kindest thing someone has ever done for you?

Tuesday

Give someone a compliment.

Use kind words.

How do you feel when you do something kind?

Wednesday

Write a thank you note to someone.

Always say 'please' and 'thank you'.

How can you encourage others to be kind?

7-Day Kindness Challenge



#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

Thursday

Hold the door open for someone else.

Show someone you are listening by looking at them.

What would it be like if everyone did one kind thing each day?

Friday

Offer to play with someone who is on their own.

Put things back where they belong.

Why is it important to be kind to yourself and others?

Saturday

Help pick up litter and put it in the bin.

Volunteer to help out.

What brightens your day?

Sunday

Tell a joke to make someone laugh.

Offer hugs to cheer people up.

Name a kind act you could try to do every day.

The Anti-Bullying Alliance coordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year in England and Wales. You can find further free resources for Anti-Bullying Week on their website. ABA also have free anti-bullying resources available for schools:

- [CPD anti-bullying online training courses](#)
- Become a United Against Bullying School and enroll on ABA's free whole-school [anti-bullying programme](#) today



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