



# Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 19th July 2021

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

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

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>What's Happening this Week?</b>	F2 Big PE day Y1 Sports Day	Nursery Sports Day School Picnic Day!	School closed INSET DAY	School closed	School closed
<b>And Next Week ?</b>	School closed	School closed	School closed	School closed	School closed

**Attendance for the week ending 16th July 2021:**

Class	Attendance (%)
Enormous Crocodiles	99.1
Crafty Chameleons	99.1
Hungry Caterpillars	95.1
Gruffalos	97.0
Elmers	94.2

Overall attendance for the week was 96.7%

### Some Key Dates

Monday 19th July	Y1 Sports Day
Tuesday 20th July	Last day of term (Wed 21st is an INSET day) School picnic day Nursery Sports Day

The 2021/22 school year starts on  
Thursday 2nd September 2021

(as Wed 1st Sept is a staff training day)



## WELCOME VIDEOS

To help your child to prepare for September and become familiar with new year group staff, teacher 'welcome videos' and 'virtual school tours' are now available on the school website!

<https://www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org/transition-videos>

## **Keeping Children Safe in the Sun**

The final day of term looks to be another scorcher, so PLEASE.....

- Apply high factor sun cream/sunblock before school (children can also bring named bottles into school for their personal use throughout the day)
- Bring a wide brimmed hat for your child to wear
- Provide a bottle with fresh water for your child to drink each day
- Dress your child in clothes that cover and protect the skin

## **End of term arrangements**

With only one more school day until the summer holiday, please remember that our final day with the children is Tuesday **20th July**.

The school menu is slightly different tomorrow as a picnic menu is offered ready for the children to eat their lunch outside in the shade (you will find details of our Picnic Day food arrangements later in the newsletter).

Nursery children will be wearing sports wear ready for their Sports Day. Some children in school have asked if they can wear non-uniform tomorrow to enjoy the Picnic and Party Day —children can choose either to come in uniform (if they would like to wear it one last time this academic year!) or non-uniform tomorrow. If choosing non-uniform, please ensure your child wears something light that covers shoulders/skin etc. as tomorrow is going to be hot again (therefore, no fancy dress costumes please). Sun hats/sunblock at the ready please for the picnic too!

Please remind the children to empty their drawers and ensure they bring a bag large enough to fill with their belongings from their drawer/peg etc. if you have not done this already.

Teachers have enjoyed meeting their new classes over the last couple of weeks and have all met to share information ready for September. Please find the virtual class tours and teachers' welcome videos on our website which we hope you enjoy accessing during the school holiday too!

Schools have now received all the necessary guidance about the next steps/how they should operate from September, so please find key information below to provide you with some clarity before the end of term.

## **What are our plans for September?**

As you are aware, England moves to Step 4 of the 'roadmap' today.

School and college leaders can take operational decisions about their own settings for September, but in doing so they should consider all steps and measures available and their impact on provision for students (i.e. using national guidance, their own risk assessments, and advice from their Director of Public Health etc.).

The revised DfE guidance for schools/early years settings/colleges/out-of-school settings removes the need for staggered start/end times as there is no requirement to keep children and young people in consistent groups ('bubbles') to reduce mixing. That said, we will not be changing anything for the last 2 days of term this week to try and keep consistency (and avoid unnecessary confusion!), so the changes will start after the summer holiday.

Also from Step 4, education and childcare settings are no longer required to undertake contact tracing for children and young people. Close contacts will now be identified directly by NHS Test and Trace and not schools. Settings may be contacted in exceptional cases to help identify close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases. Pupils and students who test positive will be subject to the normal test and trace process, which will identify close contacts.

From Monday 16 August, children under 18 years old, and those who are double vaccinated, will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact. At this point, close contacts of a positive case will be informed by NHS Test and Trace and should be advised to take a PCR test. Self-isolation will continue for those who have tested positive for COVID-19.

## How is the government asking schools to manage cases from September?

- The DfE expects schools and colleges to deliver a full curriculum from September.
- Although 'bubbles' are no longer necessary, schools should continue using some protective measures in the Autumn term, including good hygiene and ventilation.
- All schools will need a COVID outbreak management plan and will work with local health teams to continue to protect the school community. Local Directors of Public Health may advise a school to reintroduce some control measures if needed.
- Close contacts of a positive case will be asked to take a PCR test, and will only need to isolate if they test positive.
- As set out in the schools COVID-19 operational guidance for Step 4, schools should maintain their capacity to deliver high quality remote education for next academic year in case it is needed.
- No one way system is needed on yard as we will be returning to whole start/end times (therefore either gate can be used)
- Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff, visitors in classrooms or in communal areas, but DfE recommends they are worn in enclosed or crowded spaces where you come into contact with people who you do not normally meet (such as public transport). Whilst face coverings are no longer required, we will fully support anyone who wishes to keep wearing a face covering on our school site/premises.

I am sure that many of you may be wondering how certain these plans for September are, especially as things change at such a pace! All I can say at this point in time is that our plans for September follow the current government guidance. Although schools will not know what September will look like for definite until much closer to the time e.g. in case guidance changes before then, we will plan using the latest advice. We will update you should any revisions to guidance be made in the meantime, and an email will be sent to you during the final week of the holidays to confirm arrangements (in case any further announcements are made from the government/DfE or Public Health during the school holiday).

### Official letter from DfE to parents, carers or guardians - contact tracing

Attached is the text of a letter from the DfE to all parents/carers concerning arrangements for contact tracing.

### When do the children return?

The children return to school on **Thursday 2nd September** (unless your child will be new to nursery/school in September, as new starters have already been sent a specified starting date).

The site and schools gates will open at 8:25am each day ready for...

- Nursery to open at 8:30am (**Nursery timings will revert to 8:30-11:30/12:30-3:30pm**)
- School doors to open at 8:40am for whole school timings to start once more! **Registration in school takes place at 8:55am prompt, and home time is 2:55pm.** Classroom doors and the school gates will be secured between these times.

Please note that Halfway Junior School has also extended its opening times in the morning so parents have a 15-20 minute window to drop children off at both schools. This is extended from previous timings to support parents.

To start with, we ask that you continue to deliver the children to their external door, ensuring they enter the school building and have been handed over to their teacher before you leave the site. We plan on using this approach where parents/carers continue to drop children off on the yard rather than enter the classroom to avoid unnecessary mass gatherings in the first instance, and will review this later in the Autumn Term.

### Where do I drop off/collect my child?

Nursery - please wait for staff to collect children in the current waiting area on the school yard (behind the main school building)

F2 - please wait directly outside the F2 block

Y1 - please wait outside the Y1 block

Y2 - please wait outside the main entrance to the main school building (this will be used for both Y2 classes in a morning and for Mrs Jordan's class at home time. Mrs Hibberd's class will be dismissed directly from her door/the side door at home time).

## Who will my child's class teacher be from September?

Here is a reminder of the class organisation for September 2021, with photographs of your child's new teacher/s.

### Nursery - Miss Maloney, Miss Chris Gregg, Mrs Sarah Charnley

Harley Maloney will be teaching in Nursery again in September and cannot wait to work with the Nursery children and their families again!



### F2 (Reception)

#### Miss Hughes and Mrs Hipkin - The Gruffalos

#### Mrs Timmons - The Elmers

TAs: Mrs Line, Miss Ellis, Mrs Allsopp

Miss Hughes will remain in F2 in September in her EYFS leader role, in addition to continuing as our Acting Deputy Head, and the class will be taught by Mrs Hipkin each Thurs/Fri. Mrs Timmons will also be teaching our second F2 class again in September.



### Year 1

#### Miss Dale - Rainbow Fish

#### Mrs Briggs and Mrs Bettinson - Very Hungry Caterpillars

TAs: Miss Wylie, Ms Barker, Mrs Farnen

Miss Dale will be teaching Mrs Timmons's current class of children in September as they move into Y1. She has heard that the children are all absolute superstars and is really looking forward to teaching them in her current classroom in the Y1 building! :-)



Mrs Briggs and Mrs Bettinson will be moving to Y1 in September (into Miss Kay/Mrs Hibberd's current classroom—to the left of the Y1 building) and will be teaching Miss Hughes's current class of children. Mrs Briggs works Mon-Wed (and is excited to work with the current Gruffalo class again next year!) and Mrs Bettinson works each Wed-Fri.

### Year 2

#### Mrs Jordan - The Enormous Crocodiles

#### Mrs Hibberd - Crafty Chameleons

TAs: Mrs Hunter, Mrs Dyche

Mrs Jordan is excited that she will be teaching Miss Dale's current class in Y2 in September in her current classroom (via the main entrance to school). Mrs Hibberd will also be working full time in September and is excited to be back in Y2... and she is taking her current class of children with her! Big smiles all round as she is delighted to keep them for another year!



## **INSET DAYS/DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Below is confirmation of our school closure days for next year. Please note the additional date of 6th June. This is an extra day the government has given to schools to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. At the moment this date is fixed, however, if the advice on this changes from the government, we will let you know!

**1st Sept 2021**

**22nd Oct 2021**

**4th Jan 2022**

**21st Feb 2022**

**27th May 2022**

**6th June 2022**

## **School Picnic Day - Tuesday 20th July**

As part of the end of year celebrations we have planned, we have special 'Picnic and Party' sessions on the last day of school - Tuesday 20th July. The school menu will be different on this day due to it being a special occasion (no hot food will be available as we are hopeful that we can eat outside on the field!), and all children will be able to order the following picnic bag\* from the school kitchen:

- Cheese or ham sandwich
- Mini pizza
- Cheese and onion roll
- Carrot and cucumber sticks
- Pasta salad
- Small tub of ice cream :-) /Chocolate cake
- Bottle of water

\*Please note that dairy free alternatives will be available where parents/carers have informed us their child has a confirmed dairy allergy.

NB - Children are also able to bring a packed lunch in from home on this day if they prefer (please ensure there are no foods containing nuts in lunchboxes).

## **Nursery News**

### **Nursery Sports Day**

Tomorrow (Tuesday) is nursery's sports day. Please apply high factor sun block to your child, bring his/her hat and named water bottle to nursery.

### **Shells and Cones!**

If anyone is going to the seaside over the summer holidays, could you please bring back some shells—or, if going to the countryside, bring back some pine cones! These will all come in very handy when nursery re-opens in September.

## Go Explore week of Beat the Street

Go Explore week of Beat the Street is lining up to be one of the most exciting yet!

Highlight events and activities are "A Sheffield Adventure" with Beat the Street and Create Sheffield and Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity's Bears of Sheffield Trail. More information below!

### From My World to Yours - A Sheffield Adventure with Beat the Street

Create Sheffield is encouraging Sheffield children to explore their local area and re-imagine it as a fantasy world!

Over 7 days during the Beat the Street Go Explore! Week (14th-20th July), Create Sheffield will encourage you to get active and be creative with daily challenges AND there will be daily prize draws for the most creative contributions!

For a chance to win the prizes, don't forget to share your Beat the Street Adventure 'From My World to Yours' with #MovingShakingCreating #BTSSheffield on social media or email [contactus@createsheffield.co.uk](mailto:contactus@createsheffield.co.uk) and tell us what you are up to!

Also ... On the 17th July 11am - 1pm you can take part in the From My World to Yours Sheffield Adventure AND take part in the Let's Get Arty with a Bear Trail Party celebration in the Millennium Gallery with Sheffield Theatres, Site Gallery and Museums Sheffield. Suitable for ages 5-11.

Remember to stay on the lookout for the daily updates by following Create Sheffield on their Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages. Take a sneak peak at the Sheffield Adventure. Also stay in touch with its half-termly newsletter!

### Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity's Bears of Sheffield Trail

The secret is finally out! Bears have appeared all across Sheffield and you can discover them! Funds raised from this will go towards a new cancer and leukaemia ward. The Bears Trail will continue throughout the summer so you will have plenty of reasons to explore the city in the holidays once Beat the Street has finished. Visit <https://bearsofsheffield.com/> for more info.

## The Sheffield Libraries Reading Challenge!

All our children are invited to take part in the Sheffield Libraries Reading Challenge. The aim of the challenge is to encourage children to keep reading over the long summer holiday and to nurture a lifelong love of reading for pleasure. The fabulous Sheffield based illustrator Lydia Monks (whose books include 'What the Ladybird Heard', 'Aaaarrggghh! Spider!' and 'Sharing Shell') has created the design for our challenge which is themed around wild animals and wildlife.

It's free for children to take part in the challenge, which is suitable for children from up to 11 years of age. They can sign up at their local library.

All they have to do is read four books of their choice, collecting a sticker for each book that they read. These can then be added to their very own colourful collectors folder.

On completion of The Sheffield Reading Challenge children will receive a certificate and a limited edition pin badge.

The Sheffield Reading Challenge will be launched in all of our libraries on Saturday 17th July but children will be able to register to take part from Thursday 1st July. Just ask at your local library.

**THE SHEFFIELD LIBRARIES READING  
CHALLENGE  
COMING TO A LIBRARY NEAR YOU ON  
SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021!**



It's FREE to sign up to The Sheffield Reading Challenge. Suitable for children from birth to 11 years of age. Just ask at your local library.

All you have to do is read four books of your choice during the summer.

Collect a sticker for each book that you read and add it to your collector's folder.

**LIBRARIES** SHEFFIELD  
DISCOVER MORE.



## Holiday Activities with Food (HAF)

The plans have been confirmed for the council's Holiday Activities with Food activities. This is a city-wide programme available during the six-weeks of the summer holidays and is aimed at children/young people & families who are eligible for 'benefits based' Free School Meals.

Activities range from football camps to swimming lessons, trips to the Peak, arts/craft/cultural activities, cooking, and lots more.

Furthermore, a healthy nutritious meal will be provided at all activities. The HAF programme is a super opportunity for eligible young people to have a fun filled engaging summer!

### **The Plan**

All 'benefits based' Free School Meals eligible families will receive information by post about the HAF programme, which will include a programme brochure and information on how to book activities using our dedicated online Ipal booking system.

For more information and to sign up, please see the Sheffield Health Holiday Website

<https://sheffieldhealthyholidays.org>

### **Where can families get further information/help?**

Parents/carers/young people can find further information on the Sheffield Healthy Holiday's Website <https://sheffieldhealthyholidays.org>

Parents/carers/young people can also ring the Sheffield City Council helpline on 0114 2039303 or email [hafprogramme2021@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:hafprogramme2021@sheffield.gov.uk)

## Summer Food Vouchers

Sheffield City Council plans to provide food vouchers for 25,000 children and young people across the city for the six-week summer holiday as part of the COVID-19 response (for families who are eligible for 'benefits based' Free School Meals).

Every eligible child and young person will receive a £90 voucher for the six-week holiday period. This is made up of £15 per child per week cover food. Families with more than one eligible child will receive a total of £90 per child.

The Council sent out letters to eligible parents/carers by first class post w/e Friday 9th July. The letter includes the website link for Edenred, together with clear instructions on how to download the voucher. Please get in touch with school before the end of term if you have any issues, or need help with downloading or printing the vouchers. After this time, the FSM Voucher helpline will be available on 0114 2734567 and can offer help to parents experiencing difficulties with their e-Codes or with general FSM enquiries. Parents/carers can also contact Edenred directly with an enquiry about an eCode or voucher at [freeschoolmealsparentscarers@edenred.com](mailto:freeschoolmealsparentscarers@edenred.com)

Please note - Any child/young person that becomes eligible for FSM between 7th July and 21st July will be sent a voucher letter at a slightly later date (w/c 26th July).

Codes need to be activated within 3 months or they will expire. Once you have claimed a voucher on the Edenred website the voucher will be valid for 12 months.

A short 'How to...' video for parents/carers can be found at - [https://youtu.be/C2t\\_aXkTI-c](https://youtu.be/C2t_aXkTI-c)



## And finally...

The last week has been just as action packed as the rest of the year, with transition opportunities, end of year Zoom celebrations, Y2 Leavers' Assemblies on Zoom, Sports Days and a lovely Picnic and Party Day planned for the children to enjoy tomorrow.

For our current Y2 children, and for some of our Nursery children, transition means a move from our school to a different school and, therefore, this will sadly be their last few days with us. Although we will miss our wonderful Nursery and Y2s next year, we really are thrilled that they are ready to take the next steps in their learning. We know they are going to have such a great time as they move on, and we know that our Y2 children are going to make exceptional Y3 children!

We are so proud of each of them and feel privileged that you chose our school for the early years of your child's education... thank you! We have loved every minute getting to know them and seeing the super progress they have made, and the brilliant and caring young people they have become. We are not only proud of them for the progress they have made in their learning (both at home as well as at school again this year!), but also in terms of their maturity, resilience, independence, confidence, compassion and citizenship. I wish each and every one the very best in the future, wherever it may take them, and we look forward to hearing about their successes. Believe in yourselves Y2, as we think you are amazing and we know that you can go out there and make a real difference to the world. Well done children!

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for your continued support in what I know has been a really challenging year for so many. We have been overwhelmed by the amount of compassion and support shown to school as we have implemented the necessary measures to try to keep our children, families and staff as safe as possible. We know that many of you continued to work throughout the pandemic/had many other commitments, but still expertly managed the joys of remote learning at home as well! We think you all deserve a medal for the many plates you have juggled so brilliantly this year, and I truly hope that you too manage some quality downtime with your family this summer.

A final thank you from me to our fantastic staff team. As ever, each and every one of them has put their heart and soul into their work and into supporting the children's welfare and learning, and have kindly squeezed (many!) additional duties into their current roles over the course of the year to offer our families as much support as they could. For example, we have had staff who have been.... contact tracing over weekends and school holidays, delivering home learning packs in all weathers, covering lunchtime duties to keep our bubbles separate, cleaning just about everything in sight on a regular basis, supervising gates/one way systems which has helped people to socially distance on the yard, making phone calls home, conducting doorstep visits to families, recording and submitting data to the DfE on a daily basis, delivering live sessions online, delivering food parcels... to name but a few! Thank you.

On behalf of the whole team here at Halfway Nursery Infant School, thank you for your continued support and kindness.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and very well deserved summer break!

With most sincere thanks,

Paula Bestall

Headteacher

## **APPENDIX**

### **Text of letter from Department for Education**

Dear parent/carer/guardian

#### **Re: Changes to contact tracing in education and childcare settings**

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on 12 July that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead on 19 July.

One of the key changes that will take place from 19 July is that education and childcare settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts.

NHS Test and Trace already manages the contact tracing process for the rest of society – including children who have recorded a positive PCR test – and has expertise in supporting people to identify close contacts.

This letter sets out in more detail below how that process will work and what you need to do if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

#### **Self-isolating and taking a test**

1. If your child has symptoms, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they, other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.

2. If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the confirmatory PCR test is positive (or is taken more than two days after the LFD), other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the LFD test.

PCR tests can be booked online through the NHS Test & Trace website or by calling 119.

PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to the education or childcare setting during term time or summer provision.

#### **Contact tracing**

If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering the PCR test. You and/or your child will be asked a series of specific questions designed to identify who your child has been in close contact with. Being in an education or childcare setting with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.

You will be asked to provide the contact details, if you know them, of any of the individuals – or their parents or guardians – who have been identified as close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice (see below).

## **Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts**

At present, anyone identified as a close contact is legally required to self-isolate and must not attend their education or childcare setting (the only exception is if they are participating in a daily contact testing trial). Anyone identified as a non-household close contact by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of their most recent contact with that person. If they live in the same household, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of that person developing symptoms (see point 1 above) or, if that person was asymptomatic, the date of their test (see point 2 above). NHS Test and Trace will notify you of the day on which the self-isolation period ends.

8. Close contacts are also advised to take a PCR test. If the test result is negative, they must still complete the full self-isolation period, as the test will not detect all positive cases. If the result is positive, they will need to self-isolate for a further 10 days – and NHS Test and Trace will contact them to identify any close contacts.

9. From 16 August, if the close contact is under 18, they will not have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults) but will be asked to take an PCR test immediately, other than for very young children identified as non-household contacts, and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test. If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts (see points 5 and 6 above). Further guidance on these changes to self-isolation will be provided shortly.

We recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that all families, education and childcare settings have had to make. This has been an enormously challenging time for everyone and we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for everything you have done.