



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 12th July 2021

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
What's Happening this Week?	F2 Big PE day F2 Class assemblies via ZOOM	Year 1 Class assemblies via ZOOM	Y2 Big PE day Y2 (Mrs Briggs/Mrs Bettinson) class assembly via ZOOM	Y1 Big PE day Y2 (Mrs Jordan) class assembly via ZOOM	
And Next Week ?	F2 Big PE day Y1 Sports Day	Nursery Sports Day School Picnic Day!	School closed INSET DAY	School closed	School closed

Attendance for the week ending 9th July 2021:

Class	Attendance (%)
Enormous Crocodiles	93.3
Crafty Chameleons	96.0
Rainbow Fish	85.5
Hungry Caterpillars	97.9
Gruffalos	90.7
Elmers	94.7

Overall attendance for the week was 93.5%

Some Key Dates

Tuesday 13 July	Year 1 Class assemblies via ZOOM
Wednesday 14 July	Year 2 (Mrs Briggs/Mrs Bettinson) Class assembly
Thursday 15 July	Year 2 (Mrs Jordan) Class assembly
Tuesday 20th July	Last day of term (Wed 21st is an INSET day) School picnic day Nursery Sports 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>



COVID and the New School Year

I know there has been speculation over whether school bubbles and staggered start/end times will remain in schools from September (from both anyone that works in a school as well as from parents/carers!). Only last week I set out our plans which shared bubble timings with you, should they still be needed in September. Tonight, the government is expected to confirm whether the easing of measures in England will go ahead on 19th July. After this decision is made, we will be able to consider revised guidance for schools and make our final plans for the new school year.

We will share our plans with you before the end of term as appreciate you need to be able to plan for September too (...of course, things change at a pace, so please also check your inbox in the last week of the summer holiday too as I will email you if there are any national policy changes made out of term time which affect our plans!).

As you are already aware, we have unfortunately had to ask school bubbles to isolate over the past few days. The rise we have seen in school follows the national picture, with transmission rates increasing across South Yorkshire and the UK. **If your child or anyone in the household has any symptoms, please keep them at home and seek a test. Thank you for helping us to be extra vigilant and keeping our community safe as we approach the summer holiday.**

Transition Update

- Our current Y2 children loved taking part in the sessions with their new Y3 teachers on Friday in school/over Zoom and are excited about their next steps in September.
- **Teacher 'welcome videos' and 'virtual classroom tours'** can be viewed on the school website at <https://www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org/transition-videos>
- **Teachers have prepared pen portraits of themselves** for their new children—these will be shared with them this week
- Current year group teachers are **meeting with new year group teachers** to share important information about how wonderful your children are, and how they can best support them in their new classes in September (this also happens if your child is moving onto a different setting)
- **Transition packs** have been sent out for new starters which detail transition for children who will be new to our school

Sports Day Fun

Well done for a super Sports Day Halfway Nursery Infant School! The weather was great, but not as amazing as our sporting heroes! Great job children! Big thanks to Miss Maloney and Neil Francis (from Westfield) for organising this, and a special thanks goes out to Mrs Hibberd for making it run so smoothly on the day too!

If your child was not in school for Sports Day due to class isolation, teachers set fun sports activities for them to join in at home on the day, and class teachers are also planning on organising their very own Sports Day when they return next week.

Free swimming passes

The 'Opening Schools Facilities Funding' was overwhelmed with requests for free lessons and, whilst Helen Stevens tried to give as many children an opportunity to access these lessons as she could, the lessons were limited and are now full. 110 children within our cluster of schools will receive free swimming lessons this summer, which is fantastic!

Helen will also be providing free swimming passes to any families who did not get a slot despite enquiring about the lessons. These will be posted out to families this week. She has also given school extra swimming vouchers for parent/carers and their children to use over the summer (NB - adults must also swim if they have a child under 8).

The vouchers will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis. We will email you an Eventbrite link shortly to enable you to apply for a voucher. If you are successful, we will send out the voucher before we break up. Please note - swimming passes will already have a specified date/time on due to strict numbers allowed at the baths for Covid-safety, and are therefore non-returnable/not exchangeable.

Holiday Activities with Food (HAF)

The Council's Holiday Activity with Food Team has a Food Summer Programme available to all children who are eligible for Free School Meals. There will be a full city-wide programme delivering a range of activities with food over the summer. The HAF Team will soon issue further correspondence to all schools detailing the finalised programme, so please watch this space!

VEGPOWER

The children are continuing to do a great job recognising and tasting the vegetable of the week in the dinner hall.
This week's featured vegetable in school is..... **BROCCOLI!**

Lost Property

PLEASE, PLEASE put your child's name in **ALL** the items they bring to school (including PE Kit). We have to throw away, or donate, hundreds of items every year, because they aren't named or collected. Please put your child's name in, or on, their:

- Coat
- Hat (woolly and sun)
- Gloves
- Scarf
- Water bottle
- Lunch box
- PE kit
- Trousers, shorts, skirts and dresses (yes, we do find these in Lost Property!)
- Shoes and trainers (yes, we find these as well!)
- Polo shirt
- Jumper
- Cardigan

....And anything else they bring to school!



This is two terms-worth of lost property that had to be either thrown away or donated etc.

During the holidays, please check that all your child's belongings are named, and that the name is still readable so your child does not lose their brand-new jumper on the first day, never to be seen again!

End of term celebrations

F2/Y1 Class assemblies on Zoom to celebrate the year, including Y2 Leavers' Zoom Assemblies. These will be held this week on the following days:

F2 Miss Hughes's class	F2 Mrs Timmons's class	Year 1 Miss Dale's class	Year 1 Mrs Hibberd's class	Year 2 Mrs Jordan's class	Year 2 Mrs Bettinson's/ Mrs Briggs's class
Monday 12th July 4.30 pm	Monday 12th July 4 pm	Tuesday 13th July 4.30 pm	Tuesday 13th July 4 pm	Thursday 15th July 4 pm	Wednesday 14th July 4 pm

Children's Reports - These will be shared with parents/carers later on this week (with an optional 'drop in' opportunity for parents/carers to discuss their child's report with their class teacher after receiving this)

School (F2, Y1, Y2) 'Picnic and party!' day to celebrate a super school year with current year group staff - **Tuesday 20th July**—more details below.

Y1 Sports Day—Y1 will be holding their sports day on Monday 19th July. **Children can come to school in sports wear on that day.**

Nursery Sports Day—nursery will be holding its sports day on the last day of term (Tuesday 20th July). **Children can come to nursery in sports wear on that day.**

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 blankets 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).

COVID safety until the end of the term

The number of positive cases of COVID-19 within school settings in England is rising, and, therefore, schools have been asked to be extra vigilant to help to keep their school communities as safe as possible.

If your child is feeling unwell, please keep them at home. If they, or someone in your household, is showing one of the possible signs of COVID-19 such as a cough, temperature or change to/loss of taste or smell, isolate as a household and seek a PCR test at a Testing Centre. Your child can return to school at the end of the isolation period or when a negative result has been received—this is in line with the current government guidelines that are in place until the end of term. Please be assured that class teachers will set remote learning for your child during this time to ensure they do not miss out, and we are also able to signpost you to support should you need it during this time. Thank you for continuing to support us as we try to protect our school community.

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 to cover food. Families with more than one eligible child will receive a total of £90 per child.

The Council will be sending out letters to eligible parents/carers by first class post w/e Friday 9th July. The letter will include 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



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

With many thanks for your continued support.

Kindest regards,

Paula Bestall