



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 22nd March 2021

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
What's Happening this Week?	Superkids (breakfast and after school) closed today	Superkids (breakfast and after school) closed today	Superkids (breakfast and after school) closed today	Superkids (breakfast and after school) closed today	Superkids (breakfast and after school) closed today
And Next Week ?	Superkids (breakfast and after school) closed today	Parent/carer consultations via ZOOM Superkids re-opens today	Parent/carer consultations via ZOOM	Parent/carer consultations via ZOOM	School and nursery closed—Good Friday and start of Easter holidays



Attendance for the week ending 19th March 2021

Class	Attendance (%)
Enormous Crocodiles	97.5
Crafty Chameleons	80.4
Rainbow Fish	95.8
Hungry Caterpillars	97.0
Gruffalos	89.3
Elmers	97.2

Overall attendance for the week was 94.9%

Upcoming Diary Dates



Tuesday 30 March	Parent/carer consultations via ZOOM F2 Miss Hughes Y1 Miss Kay/Mrs Hibberd
Wednesday 31 March	Parent/carer consultations via ZOOM Y1 Miss Dale Y2 Mrs Briggs/Mrs Bettinson
Thursday 1 April	Parent/carer consultations via ZOOM F2 Mrs Timmons Y2 Mrs Jordan
Friday 2 April	School and nursery closed for the Easter holidays

Easter Holidays

School will be closed to all children from Friday 2nd April for the Easter holiday, with school re-opening for the new school term on Monday 19th April

Please do not come to school if you are ill

As you are aware, we have had confirmed cases of Covid-19 in school recently. As well as looking for the three key symptoms, the virus can also present as cold like symptoms (including sore throat, runny nose, headache etc.) so please be cautious and keep your child at home if they are unwell. Thank you.



Spring Term Parent/Carers' Consultations

We shall be hosting individual online Zoom 'Parent/Carer Consultations' again this term for school aged children, in place of face to face Parents' Evening appointments in school. These will provide you with an opportunity to speak to your child's class teacher about how your child has settled back into school again since school re-opening, and to discuss his/her progress and next steps. We appreciate that it is not always easy to talk to staff on the yard each day with the staggered drop off arrangements and social distancing etc. so we are really looking forward to speaking with you to celebrate the children's successes in both learning at home and in school.

Each family will be able to sign up for one 10 minute Zoom appointment per child via an Eventbrite link that will be sent to you this week (Zoom links will then be sent out next week before your appointment). Staff have been allocated a full day to host these appointments. If you are able to book a day time appointment, please do so as this also helps our lovely and very hardworking teaching team to manage their workload out of hours, and it also leaves the early evening sessions for parents/carers who may need a later session. Daytime appointments also mean you can log on when your child/ren are in school as the discussions and content shared by staff will be aimed at parents/carers.

For our nursery children, staff also look forward to talking to you about how they have settled into provision, and a member of the nursery team will give you a ring w/c 29th March to say hello and discuss how your child is progressing.

We really do miss our face to face chats that we used to have with you each day, but also know it is not possible to have these conversations in person at the present time due to the safety measures we need to have in place. We hope this will give you an opportunity to catch up with staff to find out how your child is doing... and we cannot wait to tell you how proud we are of him/her!

Parents/carers of school aged children, please watch out for Eventbrite links to book a meeting with your child's class teacher on -

F2	F2	Y1	Y1	Y2	Y2
Miss Hughes	Mrs Timmons	Miss Kay/ Mrs Hibberd	Miss Dale	Mrs Briggs/ Mrs Bettinson	Mrs Jordan
All day Tuesday 30th March	All day Thursday 1st April	All day Tuesday 30th March	All day Wednesday 31st March	All day Wednesday 31st March	All day Thursday 1st April

Red Nose Day

A big Red Nose Day THANK YOU to the children for taking part by dressing in red and for their efforts and enthusiasm in the class quizzes on Friday. The children (and adults!) had great fun joining in (in their fabulous colour coordinated outfits!). WELL DONE to everyone for taking part, and a special WELL DONE to the winners of the school quiz, the Enormous Crocodiles (Mrs Jordan's class).

Thank you also to Miss Dale and our super School Council for organising this, and to the families who were able to donate to the Red Nose Day charity too using our Justgiving site. Whether or not you were able to donate financially this year, you all helped to make a difference and helped to raise a smile in school, and this is priceless :-). Thank you.

Extended services (Breakfast and After School Club)

Please note that our extended services will not be open this week and will re-open on 30th March.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Changes to the Test and Trace support payment for parents

Parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a Test and Trace Support Payment or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria. The extension of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, which is administered by district and unitary local authorities in England, ensures that parents receive the financial support they need if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities.

Parents and carers should apply to their local authority to receive a payment. Applications for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme are made via the local authority in which the parent or carer resides, not the local authority where the setting is situated, if these are different.

To be eligible applicants must meet all of the criteria that:

- they are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate. This is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period
- they are employed or self-employed
- they cannot work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result
- they meet all the other means-tested eligibility criteria for a Test and Trace Support Payment or locally determined criteria for a discretionary payment
- That their child or young person:
 - i. is aged 15 or under (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC)) and normally attends an education or childcare setting
 - ii. has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

Once an application for a payment has been received, the local authority will get in touch with school to verify the details of the child provided on the application. This will include a check of the child's name, age, address and days of self-isolation. This check is to minimise the event of fraudulent claims. Nurseries, schools, colleges and further education providers are required to provide a letter to all parents or carers of the children advised to self-isolate to support their application to the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme.

Update to DfE guidance for parents/carers

DfE has updated the guidance on what parents need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19, and has also published a collection of guidance providing information for parents and carers of children attending early years settings, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

This collection brings together information and guidance for parents/carers on:

- essential information for the spring term
- coronavirus (COVID-19) testing
- clubs and out-of-school settings
- home schooling and remote education
- support for children and young people

The guidance can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Easter Food Vouchers

Sheffield City Council plans to provide food vouchers for 31,500 children and young people across the city for the two-week Easter holiday after making a commitment to support families over the school holidays with food during the Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst restrictions are being slowly lifted, the Council recognises that many families are still facing financial hardship due to the pandemic.

It will once again be providing food vouchers for the Easter holidays to young people who are eligible for 'benefits based' free school meals. The scheme has also been extended to include children accessing MAST, Social Care and income assessed Early Years Support.

Every eligible child and young person will receive a £30 voucher for the two-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 £30 per child.

The voucher letters will be sent out to parents by first class post this week. The letter will include the website link for Edenred and clear instructions on how to download the voucher. Please get in touch with school in the first instance if you need help with downloading or printing your vouchers. Any child/young person that becomes eligible for FSM between 19th March – 1st April will also be sent a voucher letter the week after the Easter holidays.

Please note codes need to be activated within 3 months or they will expire. Once you have claimed your voucher on the Edenred website it will be valid for 12 months.

Where can families get further help with food vouchers?

The Free School Meal (FSM) Voucher helpline will be available on 0114 2734567, option 4, option 3, and can offer help to parents experiencing difficulties with their e-Codes or with general FSM enquiries.

Sheffield City Council has again produced a short 'How to...' video. The video has been updated since the February version.

The Video can be downloaded here:

<https://shared-assets.adobe.com/link/0b5c3581-23bc-4c5f-6fb2-5fb7713d0b26>

(Please note you need to open this in Chrome browser to download)

You can also link directly to the video on Youtube - <https://youtu.be/e1kZxcteciE>



Contact tracing over the Easter holidays

Schools and further education providers continue to play an important role in contact tracing and the national effort to limit the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Asking establishments to provide contact tracing support is a key part of the test and trace process, as schools and further education providers hold the data about close contacts and pupil contact details.

Schools need to continue contact tracing over Easter, similar to the arrangements over Christmas. Staff and parents/carers need to inform school of a positive case where the child/staff member develops symptoms within 48 hours of being in school or nursery as the individual may have been infectious.

Please contact school to inform us if your child develops symptoms or tests positive for Covid-19 as soon as possible. If this is out of office hours e.g. over weekends, in the first week of the Easter holiday etc., please inform us on our email address—

enquiries@halfway-inf.sheffield.sch.uk

Thank you again for your support and for helping us to keep everyone in school as safe and as happy as we can.

Paula Bestall

Headteacher