



Weekly Newsletter

Tuesday 1st September 2020

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back! I hope you have all enjoyed the six weeks holiday and have managed to have some quality time together as a family over the summer. Our staff team are all looking forward to welcoming you back to school, and, even though things will still look and feel slightly different around school, we cannot wait to welcome all children back to school to be with their friends and staff again.

Please find below confirmation of our plans for how school will operate. Most of this information was sent to you back in July (but we appreciate that that may seem like a distant memory!) and remains unaltered. This is because there has been little change to the guidance from the Department for Education and Sheffield City Council over the summer.

Whilst some changes and new routines are needed, particularly to how/when you bring your child to school, we intend for school to be as 'normal' as we can for the children whilst continuing measures for to minimise risks and infection control. We know they will adapt to new ways of working in no time, and we are so excited about seeing them all again!

What are the plans for starting back at school?

School will start to open again to all children in class sized protective 'bubble' groups this week, with a phased transition in place for all children over the course of a few days to support them as they settle back into school life. Here is a quick summary of the first couple of weeks back...

Week 1 - Supporting Y1 and Y2 children as they start back at school

Wednesday 2nd Sept

- Short visit for one parent and their child in Y1 and Y2 to view new classrooms together and meet new year group staff to answer any questions you may have, including showing you where/how to line up, and explaining drop off/ collection etc. These visits have been pre-booked at an allocated time via Eventbrite to help us to manage risks, and measures will also be in place such as handwashing on arrival and face masks to be worn by parents/carers if they would also like to enter classrooms (unless the person is exempt from wearing one).
- Existing Nursery children to attend short pre-booked visits with one adult to look around Nursery and see familiar faces in the classroom, including their Nursery teacher Harley.
- 4pm - Nursery parents/carers new to our school are invited to attend a 'Welcome Meeting' over Zoom.

Thursday 3rd Sept

- Y1 and Y2 children attend a 2 hour PSHE and welcome session in their new classrooms to support their wellbeing (a morning or afternoon session for children only, pre-booked via Eventbrite). Familiar teachers from Reception classes will also be available on the yard to help reassure the children and show you where to go when you arrive on site as a one way system will be in place.
- New Nursery children to look around Nursery on a short pre-booked visit with one adult.
- 4pm - F2 'Meet the Teacher' Zoom Meetings for parents/carers.

Friday 4th September

- Y1 and Y2 children back in school full time from Friday 4th September.
- New F2 children and one adult invited to visit F2 to walk around their new classroom together, meet their new teacher/s face to face (socially distanced) and discuss starting school.

Week 2 - Supporting F2 and Nursery children start school

Monday 7th Sept to Wednesday 9th Sept

- F2 children attend pre-booked morning and afternoon sessions to help build confidence.
- Nursery - pre-booked 'Stay and Play' sessions.

Wednesday 9th Sept

- 4pm - Y1 and Y2 'Meet the Teacher' Zoom Meeting/s after school for parents/carers.

Thursday 10th Sept

- F2 children in Group 1 start school full time (F2 start dates have already been shared with parents/carers).
- Existing Nursery children start attending their normal sessions.

Friday 11th Sept

- F2 children in Group 2 start school full time (F2 start dates have already been shared with parents/carers).

Monday 14th Sept

- New Nursery children to start Nursery, using a staggered approach to support our youngest learners.

*If we feel your child may need a more gradual and personalised transition than the above approach, staff will already have contacted you to discuss this.

What will happen when the children return to school?

Children will be welcomed back to school by their new class teachers, in their new classrooms, after the phased transition above. During their first few days attending their full sessions again, children will continue to be supported through a range of activities to get to know new year group staff better and become familiar with the new routines/ changes in school. Alongside this the children will also enjoy age appropriate learning tasks which will help teachers to start to build a picture of where they are now in their learning, and how we can best support them. We will share further information regarding our curriculum with you over the next few weeks, including at our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions.

What will protective social 'bubbles' look like?

The children will still need to be organised in protective social 'bubbles', but these can now be class-sized so children will return to school in their new year groups with their friends from their usual class. To minimise risks, we will continue to keep class 'bubbles' separate where we can, including during breaks and lunchtimes. Schools also have the flexibility now to use year group bubbles if needed e.g. to deliver small group interventions to the children etc. Staff are able to work across 'bubbles' to fulfil their duties and will aim to maintain a social distance where possible.

What about school start/end times?

Staggered start and end times will be in place for each class bubble group to minimise numbers on the school yard, and to help everyone to socially distance. The recent evidence reinforces the importance of social distancing between adults to limit the risk of infection as schools reopen, so it is vital that measures are in place to manage this at collection and drop off times. We ask you to wait outside your child's classroom, adhering to social distancing measures (markings are on the fences and on narrow paths to help with this) and leaving site as soon as you have dropped off/collected your child. When your child starts to attend for their full sessions, please arrive promptly at their allocated time:

Class/Bubble Name	Year Group	Teacher	Start time	End time
Nursery	F1	Harley Maloney	AM 8:15/PM 12:15	AM 11:15/PM 3:15
Gruffalo	F2	Miss Hughes	8:45 AM	2:55 PM
Elmer	F2	Mrs Timmons	8:25 AM	2:35 PM
Rainbow Fish	Y1	Miss Dale	8:30 AM	2:40 PM
Hungry Caterpillars	Y1	Miss Kay/Mrs Hibberd	8:40 AM	2:50 PM
Enormous Crocodiles	Y2	Mrs Jordan	8:35 AM	2:45 PM
Crafty Chameleons	Y2	Mrs Briggs/Mrs Bettinson	8:20 AM	2:30 PM

What are the rules now about school attendance?

The government's view on school attendance has changed now the circumstances have improved, and the evidence supports the full reopening of schools. All children, therefore, need to attend school as attendance is mandatory, and schools have been instructed to manage attendance in the usual way. The small number of children who may be exempt are those who have been advised for specific medical reasons or who need to self-isolate. Should you have any concerns, please seek medical advice and contact us as soon as possible if you believe your child falls into this category.

What should we do when we come to school each morning?

- Avoid using public transport to attend school.
- Only one adult to enter the school site please per child to limit numbers on site.
- Arrive on site promptly at your allocated time and socially distance as you wait outside your child's classroom.
- Children must stay with their adult at all times on the yard to avoid contact with other bubble groups.
- A one way system will be in place to enter and exit the grounds. **Each morning, ALL parents/children must enter through the pedestrian gate on Rotherham Road.** ALL parents must then follow the one way system to leave site through the Station Road gate.

And at home time?

- Please arrive on site promptly at your allocated time.
- At home time, the one way system will happen in reverse to keep children away from Station Road. **ALL adults must enter through the pedestrian gate on Station Road. ALL parents/children must then follow the one way system to leave site through the Rotherham Road gate.** This is for the children's safety to keep them away from the busy main road.

What will happen at break and lunch times?

Break and lunch times will continue to be at staggered times for different bubbles. The playground will continue to be sectioned so that bubbles do not have contact with one another (even if 2 bubbles are outside at once). Fixed outdoor equipment such as the climbing frame will remain out-of-bounds for the time being, and there will be no contact sports played until the government changes the guidance on this. Playtime/sports equipment will not be shared between bubbles without being cleaned.

Children will be seated in the hall in their own class bubble at lunchtime for the foreseeable future to avoid contact of less than 2m with others outside their bubble. The school kitchen will be providing a 'grab bag' packed lunch option only for the first few weeks to help us to manage and embed safety at lunchtime through the new staggered rota system. This also removes the need for the children to queue in the hall for hot food until we are confident that the new hall rota system is running smoothly and we can evaluate the time needed for each bubble in case amendments are needed to serving times. All food will be freshly prepared in house and will be wrapped for safety. This will be reviewed on a regular basis as we would like to start serving hot food by half term if possible.

What do we need for school?

Please send children to school in uniform/shoes they can put on/off independently (apart from Big PE days where they need to wear a track suit please —information about PE days will be shared by your child's class teacher).

Children can bring a bag to school with their **essential** items in such as a named water bottle (cleaned and refilled daily at home). They do not need toys or their own pencil cases as will be given their own named pack of stationary items they will frequently use in class. Other equipment can be shared within a class 'bubble' now, and will be cleaned thoroughly or 'quarantined' before being used by another class bubbles.

Your child may bring a packed lunch if you prefer instead of ordering a 'Grab Bag' packed lunch from the school kitchen, and lunchboxes will now be kept in their classroom bubble with them.

You do not need to provide hand gel. We will continue to make hygiene a key priority with a regular hand washing routine e.g. washing thoroughly with soap and water when they enter school, before and after break/lunch/PE and before home time.

All medication needed for your child, such as inhalers etc. needs to be brought back into school on their first day back and given to staff for safe keeping (please contact the school office if you have any queries, or if your child's medical needs have changed as we will need to discuss this with you for further information and for us to arrange for permission forms to be completed etc.).

Will staff wear face coverings in primary schools?

Sheffield City Council have stated that face coverings do not need to be worn in primary school classrooms, but the Council has recently advised staff to wear face coverings in communal areas inside and in corridors whilst we await national guidance on face coverings in education settings. Therefore, staff will not need to wear them in the classroom setting.

We are also able to advise all essential visitors in school to wear them if they need to enter a school building, including visitors from agencies supporting children and parents/carers who need to come into the building to attend an essential pre-arranged appointment (this includes classroom visits this/next week).

Will extended services (Breakfast Club and Superkids Afterschool Club) be running?

Yes! We are building our service back up gradually, with Breakfast Club starting on 4th Sept and Afterschool Club 7th Sept.

Whilst staggered start times need to be in place in school, Breakfast Club will start slightly earlier at 7:45am and Superkids will close at 6pm. After school club sessions will be in the hall for the time being so children from both our school and the Junior School can be in separate extended services bubble groups (N.B.—these will be wider groups than school bubble groups, with the four extended services bubbles being - EYFS, Y1/Y2, Y3/4 and Y5/6). Please collect children from Afterschool Club from the back door of main school (this leads into the hall) and adhere to the one way system in place on/off the premises.

We may need to limit the number of places we can offer initially so that social distancing can be encouraged. Therefore, children **must be booked in for all sessions in advance on a weekly basis (by Thurs the week before the booking is needed at the very latest)**. We also need to record this information so we have records in case Contact Tracing is needed. **Please contact Jenette Rawson, Extended Services Manager, to enquire about places on 0114 2470564, or email jenette.rawson@halfway-inf.sheffield.sch.uk.**

If you are considering whether to use afterschool club at this time, you may find this government document useful—<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

*Please note, we will **not** be able to offer any extra-curricular after-school clubs at present such as dance, karate etc.

What will happen if there is a reported case of Covid-19 within school?

Anyone with the symptoms of Covid-19 must not attend the school site and needs to follow the most recent medical advice, including around self-isolation and testing etc.

We will continue to follow the procedures we already have in place in school and work alongside Public Health England to ensure we act in line with all guidance and in the best interests of the school community. A confirmed case may result in the class social 'bubble' being instructed to isolate in case symptoms develop, and individuals may be advised to get a test.

Where can I find out more information about safety in schools?

You may find the Getting Back to School Safely Webpage helpful— <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/BackToSchoolSafely>

Below are links to two videos focusing on schools reopening from Greg Fell, Director of Public Health in Sheffield.

Back to school - <https://youtu.be/qEdShvDifYI>

UK Chief Medical Officers' statement —<https://youtu.be/uFTXl1OKbQI>

And finally...

...We are here to help you! I appreciate there is a lot to digest and I understand that this information may pose as many questions as it give answers to, but please be assured that there will be opportunities for you to speak to staff who can answer any questions you may have when you visit us. There will also be lots of staff around each morning to help you and point you in the right direction! Whilst our school office opens today (1st Sept), staff have an action packed training day on Safeguarding, Health and Safety and the Curriculum to ensure we are fully prepared for your children to return.

We will always strive to do our best and make sure our approach keeps safety, health and wellbeing at the forefront. We know that the situation we are all in together will keep changing, as will the guidance we need to follow, and we will constantly review and amend our approach to make sure it is the best one for our school community. Please do bear with us, especially with the scale of the staggered start/end times and the one way system our school site demands! If any changes do need to be made to make processes run more smoothly, we will keep you updated and thank you in advance for your support to help keep everyone safe.

As I said in my opening paragraph, we cannot wait to see all the children back in school again and to welcome you all back through the school gates.

With kindest regards,

Paula Bestall

Headteacher