



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 25th January 2021

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

Good evening

I hope you are well and have had a restful and relaxing weekend with your family. Although this newsletter includes important information and school updates for you relating to Covid-19, I wanted to start off with some fantastic news that it is my pleasure to share with you! We know that all our children are little superstars and are so proud of each one of them, but one of them has an extra special reason to celebrate this week!

Junior World Champion!

Breaking news!

We are so excited to share the news that one of our Y1 pupils, Freddie, has just been recognised as a Junior World Champion!

Freddie has been working very hard for the past 6 months to learn all about horse agility, and started to enter competitions online with his pony, Flick.

Each competition has involved lots of hard work and persistence as he has trained to demonstrate understanding and horsemanship style as he led Flick to complete courses involving 10 very tricky obstacles. Freddie has really excelled and has already moved up 3 levels of difficulty and, in the end of year league tables, Freddie has won the junior league in the walking only class. In addition to this, he has officially been recognised as a JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPION!!!

We are so delighted to hear about Freddie's progress and achievements - they are absolutely incredible - and we are so proud of him for his hard work, dedication and outstanding achievements.

From everyone here, WELL DONE FREDDIE!!!



Go ahead for new Westfield playground

Families in Westfield can look forward to new play facilities, as £183,000 was approved for a brand-new playground at Cabinet meeting last week.

Local people in Westfield have been asking for playground facilities for a number of years on the estate, forming the local community group 'Let's Get Westfield a Park' to try and make it a reality.

Through the Westfield Big Local Fund, £108,000 has been awarded for the playground, with Sheffield City Council adding a further £75,000 for the development (contribution is made up of £45,000 of Public Health funding, £15,000 from the Parks Improvement Fund and £15,000 from Housing Services).

Councillor Mary Lea, Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure, said:

"Sheffielders have always been proud and grateful for the abundance of green space and play facilities that we have across the city, but the pandemic has made us all appreciate them even more.

"We understand the strong links between quality outdoor spaces and activities, and physical and mental wellbeing and the importance of investing in our local parks.

"The new playground will be a fantastic addition to Westfield estate, and it's with thanks to those in the community, Councillor Tony Downing and everyone involved in the Partnership who have worked so hard to make this possible. I can't wait to see this project get off the ground, with support and input from the local people it will serve."

The new playground is part of a wider project led by local residents and supported by Westfield Big Local, Local Councillors and other partners working in the neighbourhood. 'Let's Get Westfield a Park' community group has worked hard over a number of years to bring the project forward, including carrying out community consultation to help design the new facility. A huge thank you from us for your hard work and persistence as we know how valuable a resource this will be for our children!

The new playground may include a range of play equipment for different ages and abilities including swings, a wheelchair accessible roundabout, multi climbing unit with slide and play panels. New tarmac footpaths may also be installed to, and through, the playground, as well as a scooter track, a seating area and tree and bulb planting. The play area should also be fenced to ensure safety from nearby roads.

Technical drawings are currently being prepared to put the project out to tender in February and construction is expected to begin on site in May 2021.

For more information contact the Housing Service on 0114 205 3333, Parks and Countryside service at parksandcountry-side@sheffield.gov.uk or call 0114 2500 500.

(This information has been taken from the Sheffield Council Website)

PE Challenge 2!

Here is the second fortnightly PE challenge for the children—to have fun as they get fit! Here is the challenge :

- **Can you do 50 frog jumps in 1 minute?**

Testing for staff

You may have seen in the media that the Government plans to roll out Covid-19 mass testing for staff working in primary schools across the UK from this week. The testing programme is designed to help schools stay open as much as possible for the remainder of the pandemic. As a community, we hope that regular staff testing will help limit disruption to school life and children's learning by reducing the spread of the virus. This is because testing will identify those members of staff who have the virus but do not have any symptoms. Schools have been supplied with lateral flow devices (LFD) test kits so that staff can self-swab at home, twice per week. These LFD tests provide results in 30 minutes.

The government maintains that morning testing is best, although it is acknowledged that this can make things difficult for schools and families to respond if a positive result is returned. Whilst we will try and collect these as early as possible as have no wish to add to the stress of parents/carers by issuing late notifications, please be aware that sometimes this may be unavoidable. As ever, we will give you as much notice as possible so you can prepare and make new arrangements for childcare and remote education if you need to.

Notifications will be shared via text and email, so please make sure that we have your correct details. Though we want to minimise the disruption of school and home life and children's education as much as possible, the closing of class bubbles on the advice of Public Health experts is shown to be a measure that can break chains of viral transmission by halting/reducing the possible spread of the virus to children, their households, their friends and members of their wider community. In the event that a class bubble has to close, parents/carers will be contacted via text first and informed that this is happening. The text will then be followed by an email which will include further information, including return dates and arrangements for remote learning, which will continue using Tapestry and live sessions where possible.

School will, of course, remain open to anyone unaffected by the order to isolate, including staff, vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers in other classes who are not deemed to be a contact of the person who has tested positive.

I thank you again for your patience, understanding and support during this challenging time for us all.

Coronavirus support available in Sheffield

What support do you need?

Follow the links:

[Test and Trace support payment](#)

[Covid-19 Hardship Related Assistance provided under the Local Assistance Scheme \(LAS\)](#)

[Adult Social Care](#)

[Bereavement support](#)

[Collecting shopping, medication or social contact](#)

[Domestic Abuse, drugs, and alcohol support](#)

[Test and trace](#)

[Food banks](#)

[Homeless or at risk of homelessness](#)

[Money](#)

Sheffield Council's Community Helpline

If you have no one else to support you, or if you are self-isolating, the Community Helpline can help you they can do shopping, medication collection, social contact or urgent support. It is contacting people on the government high risk and vulnerable list

N.B. The helpline will **never** ask for credit card details. Call them on 0114 273 4567 or [Request help online](#)

Stay safe and take care.

Kindest regards,

Paula Bestall
Headteacher