



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 18th July 2022

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
What's happening this week?	F2 Big PE Indoor Y1 picnic event	Reports sent home at the end of the day (or on Wed for any classes who need to leave early on Tues)	End of year ball incl. school disco during the school day. Light weight party clothes welcome. Y1—no PE kits needed today Nursery am/pm performances (see overleaf)	Y2 Celebration Assembly—9am Y2 Big PE 2pm—F2 picnic event	Last day of school
And next week ?	School closed	School closed	School closed	School closed	School closed
And in Sept?	School is closed on 1st and 2nd Sept for staff training days. The children return to school on Monday 5th September (unless your child will be new to nursery/F2 in September. New starters have already been sent a specified starting date).				

Attendance for last week

Class	Attendance (%)
Mrs Jordan	95.4
Mrs Hibberd	94.2
Miss Dale	90.0
Mrs Bettinson/Mrs Briggs	84.2
Miss Hughes/ Mrs Hipkin	87.5
Mrs Timmons	93.3

Overall attendance for the week was
90.8%

Leadership team from September

As a letter from our governors shared with you last week, the Governing Board was unable to find a suitable replacement headteacher during the recruitment process earlier this year. Therefore, Halfway Nursery Infant School and Halfway Junior School will have a shared interim leadership structure for a year from 1st September 2022.

The shared leadership team working across both sites will include Debbie Shepherd (as Executive Headteacher across both schools), Peter Walker (as Head of School across both schools) and Rebecca Hughes (as Deputy Headteacher at Halfway Nursery Infant School).

Mrs Shepherd and Mr Walker will be visiting school this week to meet the children and staff, and so I can handover information to them before I leave to start my new role. They will be on the yard with me on Wed morning, so please pop and say hello to them!

Barrier on Station Road

The Council's contractors have contacted us today to say that they will be renewing the barrier on the pavement on Station Road on Sunday 24th July. Please continue to keep children away from the barrier for safety.

Final newsletter of the school year!

We find ourselves at that time of year again where the staff say, 'Where on earth did the year go?!' as we ...

- finish writing reports
- support our children as they prepare for transition to their next year groups
- celebrate the children's time in their current year groups and the fantastic young learners they are
- reflect on progress and achievements
- plan ahead for next year
- share information with new teachers/schools to ensure the children continue to receive the very best support
- prepare to welcome new children and families into nursery and school
- prepare to wish the children, families and staff leaving our school the very best of health, happiness and success in all they do in the future
- ...plus all the work going on behind the scenes like timetables, data and paperwork, but that is not as exciting to write about!

We know that you may also be feeling exactly the same with lots of deadlines coming up ahead of the summer holiday, and the question of 'How can my child be moving onto the next class already?!' also popping up. Please rest assured that the children loved their transition day last week and have been saying hello to their new teacher/s on a regular basis in school so they become familiar with them and their new learning spaces. They really are looking forward to September, as are the staff. Whilst there will be lots of opportunities in the new school year to find out about learning and day to day information relating to your child's next class, if there is any information you would like about moving classes/support you feel your child still needs before we break up please do speak to one of the team.

Whilst the final transition arrangements will continue over the next few days, we are also looking forward to celebrating our wonderful children and their achievements this year with you! We are also thankful that the intense heatwave looks like it is coming to an end and are hopeful that there will need to be minimal changes to the final 'dates for the diary' below...

Date and time	Event
Monday 18th July	Year 1 Indoor Picnic
Tuesday 19th July	End of Year reports for school aged children sent home for parents/carers at home time (including Phonics Screening outcomes, end of EYFS and KS1 assessments etc.)
Wednesday 20th July	Mrs Shepherd and Mr Walker will be visiting school in the morning. Please look out for them on the yard!
Wednesday 20th July 10.30am and 2pm	End of nursery celebration for parents/carers, held in our nursery classroom.
Wednesday 20th July	'End of Year Ball' for both nursery and school aged children! Children are invited to wear light/loose fitting party clothes to help to keep them cool for this celebration event. There are lots of fun things in store for the children to enjoy during normal school hours—including snacks and a school disco (temperature permitting! All paid for with the money raised as part of the Jubilee raffle, so this day is free for children to join). There are no changes to drop off and collection times on this day.
Thursday 21st July	Special Y2 Celebration Assembly at 9am —parents/carers are welcome to attend an outdoor assembly with mid-morning refreshments on the yard (but, if the weather is too wet or too hot, we may move to the hall!) F2 Picnic Event in our grounds at 2pm. More info to come from F2 teachers...
Thursday 21st July	We have allocated 3.30pm to 4.30pm if any F2/Y1/Y2 parent/carer wishes to book a phone call to discuss the contents of their child's report. After reading through the report, please request a call back with your child's teacher via the School Office if you wish to discuss any of its contents.
Friday 22nd July	Last day of school—school and nursery break up for the summer holiday at the usual time/s

Heatwave

Younger children can suffer from the effects of the heat as they cannot regulate their temperature. Please find a reminder below of the measures in place to help to keep your children safe in school and nursery during the heatwave, **plus an update**.

Guidance

We have been sent guidance from the Local Authority and DfE that we have shared with staff around looking after children during heatwaves, and we have used this to inform the way we are working (below).

Hydration

Please ensure you send your child to school with a full water bottle so we can monitor how much they are drinking during in the day. Water is also available in school. Classroom and lunchtime staff will ensure regular rest and drinking breaks so the children remain hydrated.

Clothing

Please ensure the children are dressed in cooler, light coloured, looser clothing (the school uniform dress code will be relaxed on Monday and Tuesday so you are able to send children in alternative/looser clothing, should you wish to). Please ensure they bring a wide brim hat to wear and that your child wears a high factor sunscreen.

The building

All windows and doors across the school will be opened early in the morning and will remain open to encourage air-flow throughout the building (we will adjust this approach should the air become warmer outside). Blinds in classrooms will remain closed to try and reduce any glare, but should not block ventilation. We have also purchased large fans to increase movement of air and ventilation further. We will also keep the use of electric lighting to a minimum and switch off all electrical equipment when they are not in use.

Following advice from DfE and the LA, activities will be amended so children do not exert themselves and to limit the amount of time outside. We will continue to monitor the weather and advice and guidance from the council as events may need to be amended, depending on the temperatures.

Break/lunchtimes and outdoor learning

The children will remain either inside or in shaded areas, wherever possible. There will be no PE lessons or outdoor activities should the weather reach the excessive temperatures forecast on Monday/Tuesday. This is to protect our children and reduce the chance of dehydration or exposure to the sun.

We have first aiders on site who have the knowledge on the management of heat related illnesses/injuries should this be needed.

UPDATE FOR TUESDAY 19TH JULY

We already have the above measures in place to try and regulate the temperatures across school/nursery to mitigate risks. Whilst these measures helped us to maintain a safe working environment on Monday, we are increasingly concerned as even higher temperatures are forecast earlier in the day on Tuesday.

Following advice we sought from the Health and Safety team at the council on Monday night about this, we have been advised that, if we are unable to regulate the temperatures in some of our classrooms on Tuesday (should temperatures reach the heights that have been forecast), we may need to contact some parents/carers and ask them to collect their children early for their own safety.

We will therefore monitor the temperature in classrooms on Tuesday and keep you informed via text, but may need to close some classes early at 12 noon (should the forecast be accurate and indoor temperatures rise to a level where we are concerned about the safety of children/staff). This information has already been sent out to parents and is a reminder of the plan in place.

Please note—The advice received on Mon night was for our school and our specific circumstances e.g. as young children are unable to regulate their own temperature, and due to the construction of our Nursery, Y1 and Y2 blocks these buildings are impacted on by the hot/cold weather (and are not air conditioned as F2 is).

If you feel your child is at risk from the weather conditions or the excessive temperatures forecast, please decide whether you feel the mitigation we are able to put in place at school is sufficient and whether you would be able to do anything different at home.

As ever, your child's safety and their health is extremely important to us, and all decisions made will have their wellbeing at the very centre.

Free Food Supplement Vouchers for Summer Holidays 2022

The Government Household Support Grant has been extended to assist with rising food and energy costs. Sheffield City Council recognises that many families continue to face financial difficulties because of the pandemic, changes to Universal Credit, and rising costs for food and energy.

Vouchers will be issued by the council this week.

A £50 food supplement voucher will be sent to the following groups to help over the summer holidays:

- Families who claim income-based Free School Meals (FSM)
- Families who get income-assessed Early Years Support (2–4-Year-Olds)
- Young people leaving their care setting (Care Leavers)

The Plan

The Council has chosen to continue to use Edenred as the supplier of the vouchers as schools and parent/carers are familiar with the two-step process involved in downloading the vouchers.

It aims to have the voucher letters sent out to parents by w/c Monday 18 July. The letter will include the website link for Edenred and clear instructions on how to download the voucher. You will be provided with the contact details for Edenred should you have any problems when the School Office is closed for summer.

Any child/young person that becomes eligible for a food voucher between 8 July 2022 and 24 July 2022 will be sent a voucher letter w/c 1 August 2022.

The Process

- As before, parents/carers need to go to this website to redeem vouchers - www.selectyourcompliment.co.uk/grocery
- Enter the unique 16-digit e-Code and select the chosen supermarket. Edenred gives a choice of 10 supermarkets: Aldi, Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, M&S, McColl's, Company Shop, Iceland and Farmfoods.
- Parents/carers can download their vouchers for more than one supermarket e.g. £20 for Aldi and £30 for Asda.
- The downloaded E-Gift Card/Voucher will arrive by email within 24 hours. If you cannot find this, please check your junk/spam folder.

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

Where can families get further help?

The 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.

Parents/carers can also contact Edenred directly with an enquiry about an eCode or voucher at freeschoolmealsparentscarers@edenred.com or telephone 0333 400 5932.

If any parent/carer is facing financial hardship, there is free advice and support available at www.citizensadvice.org.uk or call on 0808 278 7820. You can also find further information about support at:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/benefits/help-money-issues>

And finally...

The last week is just as action packed as the rest of the year, with transition opportunities, end of year celebrations and picnics, Y2 Leavers' Assemblies coming up and a Party Day planned for the children to enjoy.

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 the staff 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, 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 the team 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. Thank you for being stars Y2!

Mrs Jordan, we really do wish you well in your new role at your new school in September too — although the children and staff will really miss you next year, we wish you the very best as know you will be amazing in your new role. You have been such a dedicated member of our teaching team and have supported and taught the children brilliantly—from F2 to Y2—thank you! We all wish you the very best. Please stay in touch!

Whilst this may also be my last newsletter here as Headteacher, it will not be my last communication with you this week (and therefore it is not a goodbye just yet!), but I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for your continued support in what has been a successful, but also somewhat challenging, year. As ever, we have been overwhelmed by the amount of understanding and support shown to school after the restrictions from the pandemic ended, and also when the restrictions imposed by our building work started! Whilst this building is a brilliant addition to school and has really improved facilities for children and staff, including their toilets, we know this also affected the way we had to work for a few months. You have been patient and supportive, and for that we thank you!

A final thank you to our 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 wellbeing and learning. They really do care for every child in our school and go above and beyond what they are paid to do because they are invested in doing whatever they can with whatever we have. They also smile and work extremely hard no matter what comes their way (including not having anywhere to eat lunch and making cups of tea in a stockroom for months of the year when their staffroom was demolished, outdoor toilets to contend with, and now a heatwave thrown in for good measure!). Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for our children.

On behalf of the whole team here at Halfway Nursery Infant School, thank you for your continued support and kindness this year and for working in partnership with us each step of the way.

We look forward to sharing and celebrating your child's progress and achievements with you over the next few days.

Kinds regards,

Paula Bestall

Headteacher

Appendix of holiday fun in the local area

Summer Holiday Clubs at Westfield Secondary School

In partnership with

Healthy Holidays
Be active, eat well

Sheffield City Council

Department for Education

DIRECT ACTION TRAINING

Summer Holidays Club

Dates:
Monday - Thursday
25th-28th July
1st-5th August
8th-11th August

Westfield Secondary School
Eckington Road
Sheffield
S20 1HQ

10am - 2pm

Activities Include
Creative Crafts
Sports & Games
Learn how to do
First Aid

Age 5-11

BOOK NOW

FREE PLACES FOR
Children eligible for
FREE SCHOOL MEALS.
Book your place via
SheffieldHealthyHolidays.org

PAID PLACES AVAILABLE -
£12 per day

PAID PLACES - Scan the QR code and register electronically
For more information contact
info@directactiontraining.com
07977599778

Holiday Activities for children in receipt of income-based free school meals

There are lots of fun free activities for children and young people in receipt of benefits-related/income-based free school meals, from Reception to Y11, to access during the summer break as part of the Sheffield Healthy Holidays programme. Places on the programme are limited.

Each eligible household will receive a letter inviting them to participate in the programme. For more information, and how to book online, please visit www.sheffieldhealthyholidays.org. Please note - the booking system should be live from today.

If you have any queries about the programme, please contact hafprogramme2021@sheffield.gov.uk or phone the dedicated HAF phone number 0114 2039303.

Please note children in receipt of universal free school meals (Reception, Year 1 & Year 2) are not eligible for this programme.

Summer activities in libraries across Sheffield

There are a range of fun and interactive activities taking place in Sheffield libraries during the summer holidays for children to attend with their parent/carer —a few activities they are offering for our age group are included below. All of these are free of charge, but places are limited so booking is essential. You can do this by contacting the appropriate library or, to find out more about what the Libraries Team offer, visit <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/libraries-archives/events-children-families>

Please note—the activities below are not linked to, or organised by, school in any way, but we have been asked to share this information with you by the council's library service.

Join poet Craig Bradley for a fun filled hour of songs, stories, poems, and lots of laughter! Suitable for children aged five and upwards and their families at the following libraries -

Monday 15th August

Parson Cross Library 10.30-11.30am

Woodseats Library 1.30-2.30pm.

Tuesday 16th August

Chapelton Library 10.30-11.30am

Firth Park Library 1.30-2.30pm.

Wednesday 17th August

Darnall Library 10.30-11.30am

Central Children's Library 1.30-2.30pm.

Thursday 18th August

Ecclesall Library 10.30-11.30am

Crystal Peaks Library 10.30-2.30pm.

Friday 19th August

Hillsborough Library 10.30-11.30am

Manor Library 1.30-2.30pm.

Amazelab will be hosting a range of creative and engaging activities in Sheffield libraries. Suitable for children aged 5-11 years of age.

Light Up Monsters and Robots!

The world needs to find solutions to many problems, do you think you could help? Design and bring your very own monster or robot to life to help solve the problem of your choice.

Get creative on:

Wednesday 27th July at Ecclesall Library 10.00-12.00 noon, and Central Children's Library 2.00-4.00pm.

City of the Future!

If you could create your very own city of the future, what would it look like? Let your imagination run wild on -

Wednesday 10th August at Hillsborough Library 10.00-12.00 noon. Highfield Library 2.00-4.00pm.

Chemical Reactions!

Many great inventions start with a chemical reaction. This workshop will look at creating these with everyday ingredients... and a little bit of magic! Join Amazelab for this fizzing activity on:

Thursday 18th August at Chapelton Library 10.00-12.00 noon. Stocksbridge Library 2.00-4.00pm.

Libraries Team summer activities continued....

Road Safety Fun

Join the Road Safety Team for an interactive session to make safely crossing the road fun. For children of all ages and their families.

Tuesday 26th July. Firth Park Library 2.00-3.30pm.

Thursday 28th July. Crystal Peaks Library 2.00-3.30pm.

Monday 1st August. Manor Library 10.30-12.00 noon.

Tuesday 2nd August. Darnall Library 10.30-12.00 noon.

Wednesday 3rd August. Highfield Library 2.00-3.30pm.

Tuesday 9th August. Stockbridge Library 2.00-3.30pm.

Tuesday 16th August. Hillsborough Library 2.00-3.30pm.

Monday 22nd August. Ecclesall Library 2.00-3.30pm.

Wednesday 24th August. Woodseats Library 2.00-3.30pm.

Thursday 25th August. Chapeltown Library 2.00-3.30pm.

Maker Library—Gadgets & Gizmos Family Workshops

Makers (Futures) has teamed up with Sheffield Libraries to run a series of playful family workshops that will bring the Summer Reading Challenge – Gadgeteers—to life! Join them to tinker, test and make with cardboard, electronics and other everyday resources to create your own gadgets and gizmos. They will be at the following libraries -

Monday 8th August. Stocksbridge Library 10.00-12.00 noon. Chapeltown Library 2.00-4.00pm

Tuesday 9th August. Parson Cross Library 10.00-12.00 noon. Darnall Library 2.00-4.00pm.

Wednesday 10th August. Firth Park Library 10.00-12.00 noon. Manor Library 2.00-4.00pm.

Monday 15th August. Crystal Peaks Library 10.00-12.00 noon. Ecclesall Library 2.00-4.00pm.

Tuesday 16th August. Central Children's Library 10.00-12.00 noon. Highfield Library 2.00-4.00pm.

Wednesday 17th August. Woodseats Library 10.00-12.00 noon. Hillsborough Library 2.00-4.00pm.

LIBRARIES SHEFFIELD
DISCOVER MORE.



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