



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 27th September 2021

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
What's Happening this Week?	F2 Big PE Day		Meet the Y1 teachers ZOOM sessions Y1 Big PE Day	Meet the Y2 teachers ZOOM sessions Y2 Big PE Day	Fire engine and fire fighters visiting school
And Next Week ?	F2 Big PE Day	Individual photos taken 3.10—6.00 pm ZOOM parent/carer consultations	Y1 Big PE Day	Y2 Big PE Day	

School attendance figures

Attendance for the week ending 24th September 2021:

Class	Attendance (%)
Enormous Crocodiles	96.4
Crafty Chameleons	96.8
Rainbow Fish	93.5
Hungry Caterpillars	98.7
Gruffalos	92.1
Elmers	94.2

Overall attendance for the week was 95.2%

Parent/carer consultations (F2 and KS1)

Links enabling you to book your parent/carer consultation discussion with your child's teacher will be emailed to you in the next day or so—keep an eye on your inbox!

Checking your child's clothing

Could we please ask parents/carers of children in nursery to check that the jumper/cardigans their children have brought home do belong to them. We have had cases of clothing which has gone missing! Children's names should be printed clearly on the labels inside the clothing!

Dear parents/carers

After what may have been a stressful (and certainly wet!) journey to school for all of you this morning, the children quickly dried themselves off and got settled down to enjoy teaching and learning in no time at all. We tried our best to equip them with dry items of clothing where needed and attempted to dry soggy footwear out on the windowsills in the sunshine, but please do check school shoes and bookbags tonight as some may need a little more airing after the torrential rain you may have got caught in this morning on the way to school!

Here are a few notices for the week, along with a section on school attendance.

Parent/Carer Consultations

In line with recent advice to schools, meetings will continue to take place virtually wherever possible/appropriate. Therefore, Parents' Consultations will also take place virtually again this term for safety (and also for your convenience too as we know many parents/carers reported that they found these appointments more accessible to attend when they were online last year!). Booking links will be emailed to you in the next day or so. If you are not able to attend a virtual event, please do inform us so we can offer support as we would like all events to be accessible.

Meet the Teacher sessions this week

These are online sessions for KS1 parents/carers to hear about learning, timetables and expectations for your child's new year group (these will be led by teaching staff in each year group). Zoom links have already been emailed to KS1 parents/carers.

Fire engine and fire fighters visiting this week - Friday 1st October

We feel really fortunate to have been offered a visit from a fire engine and fire fighters on Friday morning, and we are hoping that we will have time for all classes to visit the team on the school yard to find out about their role/s, equipment and also how to stay safe. The visit will be dependent on whether or not the vehicle and crew are called to attend an emergency, but please ensure children wear warm (and waterproof if this morning was anything to go by!) clothing on Friday morning in preparation for our visitors in school.

Attendance guidance for parents

Thank you for arriving at school on time every day. Starting good attendance and punctuality habits early (from the very first day your child attends nursery/foundation stage) really helps to support their social development as well as their learning and progress.

To support the drive in improving attendance within the city, a new School Attendance Policy has been developed. Please find some information relating to this for your reference below, along with a link to the council's website if you would like to find out more.

If you would like advice, schools also have Local Authority Attendance and Inclusion Officers linked to support us to help children achieve good school attendance, so please contact me should you wish to speak to someone.

Attendance and the Law

The law states that parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that children receive a suitable, full time education between the ages of 5 and 16.

Attendance legal processes have now restarted in Sheffield to address issues such as persistent absence to ensure that children are able to access learning on a regular basis.

Absence guidance continued...

Absence

We know that most children will have some unavoidable absence from school from time to time, usually due to illness.

If a child is too ill to attend, please contact school on the first morning of any absence, providing a reason for the absence, and keep in touch if your child cannot return to school quickly. We are usually able to offer some advice on how long, if at all, your child should remain home where common childhood illnesses or infections are concerned e.g. chickenpox, so please contact the school office should you wish to find out any information.

Wherever possible, please continue to make children's appointments outside school times, particularly regular dental or medical appointments, and please note that schools may ask for supporting evidence for a child's absence e.g. appointment letter or confirmation that your child has been seen by a health professional before a medical absence is authorised.

As you are aware, regular leave in term time for family holidays cannot be authorised, in line with Sheffield City Council policy, as term time holidays are not classed as an exceptional circumstance. The council has also recently asked headteachers to request evidence from parents/carers when considering a term time holiday request i.e. why a holiday could not be taken during a school holiday period.

Punctuality

We know how hard everyone tries to ensure the children are here before the register each day, and punctuality across school is really good as a result. Thank you for your support - we know how tricky mornings can be with traffic and dropping children off at different schools etc. but this really makes a difference to your child's learning. A polite reminder please that, whilst being on time is important, it is better for a child to miss a small part of the day than the whole day (e.g. when the alarm clock fails to go off or you are running late), so please bring your child to school if this happens and we will always have a smile to greet them when they arrive.

A few top tips!

- Talk to your child about school and encourage them to attend.
- Take a positive interest in your child's work, including homework.
- Help your child get into a good night-time, sleep time, and morning routine.
- Contact school on the first day your child is absent and discuss any concerns.
- Stay in good contact with school. Attend parent/carer evenings/consultations and ask for other times to talk about your child if needed.
- Book regular holidays in the school holidays and not term time wherever possible.
- If your child is ill, help them to return to school as soon as possible. See NHS advice.
- Book routine medical appointments after school or during the school holidays wherever possible. Please note - we understand that some children may need to attend regular medical appointments due to their needs and work closely with families to offer our support.

Would you like to know more about school attendance in Sheffield?

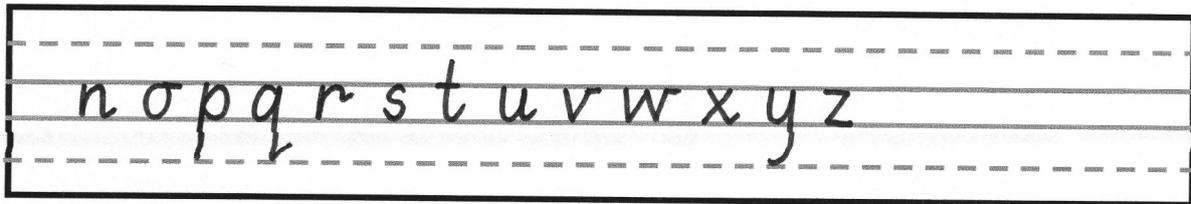
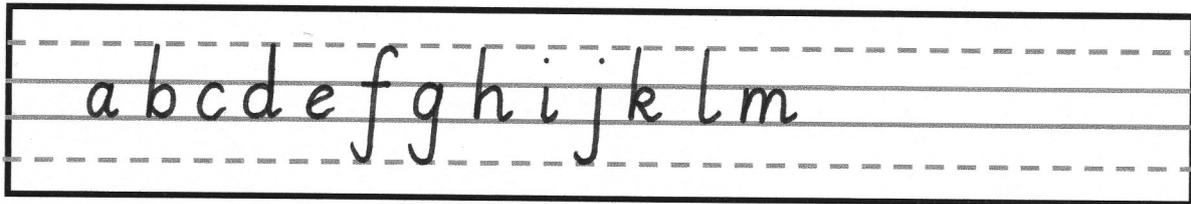
Go to:

https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/schools-childcare/attendance-guidance-parents?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

Handwriting in our school

In the summer of 2020 we took the decision to change our handwriting scheme. This decision was made for many reasons, including aligning our handwriting scheme with others within our Family of Schools incl. the Junior School. The handwriting style we shall be using is based on a semi-cursive style. It is simplistic, but very clear, and it does not have the 'loops' or 'lead ins' which were features of our previous more complex handwriting style.

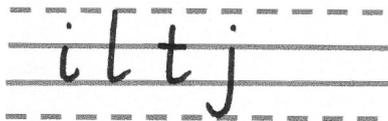
Here you can see some examples of the new handwriting:



The children will be introduced to this in school and will be taught handwriting through 'Handwriting families', these are:

The Straight Line Family:

Letters based on a single vertical line.



Handwriting continued...

The Coathanger Family:

Letters based on a c shape.

c o a d g q e

The Bridge Family:

Letters with a vertical down stroke followed by a diagonal movement to the right.

n m r

The Bridge Family continued:

h b k p

The Zig Zag Family:

v w

The Smile family:

u y

The Misfits!

Letters that are unique and individual and do not fit with any other letter groups.

s f x z

As the children progress through school they will also be introduced to how these letters change and develop as they begin to join the letters. When this is introduced to your child we will provide you with updated guidance on handwriting to enable you to support this at home.

Sheffield Parenting What's On Guide

Below you will find the Sheffield Parenting What's On Guide. This has details of a whole range of helpful events for parents/carers—discussion groups, seminars and parenting programmes.

With kind regards,

Paula Bestall
(Headteacher)

September 2021



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Being a parent is amazing but at times we all need practical help and advice. Our Parenting Team delivers Triple P, Incredible Years programmes and Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities (EPEC) programmes across Sheffield. These are tried and tested programmes based on international research into what works for families and children!

This booklet will provide information about the different services we can offer and how to book a place to attend.

We all have busy lives and one size doesn't fit all so we have a range of options to suit every parent. Just a few small changes can make a big difference! These are the different services that we offer:



Triple P Seminars

This is for you if you are interested in general information about promoting your child's development. They are 90 minute talks to large groups on a number of different topics. We hope you will find it interesting and take away some ideas.

To book a place on a seminar please follow this link and book Via Eventbrite:
<http://bit.ly/SheffParentHub>

Triple P Discussion Groups

The Triple P Discussion Group Series are 2 hour interactive sessions based on commonly encountered problems, which are delivered in small groups. This is for you if you'd like a small discussion group session that looks at specific issues with some tailored advice and ideas to take away.

Booking for Discussion Groups is essential. To book on to a place please follow this link and book Via Eventbrite:
<http://bit.ly/SheffParentHub>

Group Parenting Programmes

A group Parenting Programme is for you if you are looking at the Discussion Group topics and think that 3 or more would be useful. Our Group programmes cover the full range of parenting strategies over 9 – 15 weeks depending on the programme.

Booking or referral to a programme is essential.

Please contact us to discuss it in more details on **0114 2057243** or email Sheffieldparenting@sheffield.gov.uk



0-12 Raising Resilient Children

Parents are introduced to six core building blocks for children to manage their feelings and become resilient in dealing with life stress. These competencies are:

- Recognising and accepting feelings.
- Expressing feelings appropriately.
- Building a positive outlook.
- Developing coping skills.
- Dealing with negative feelings.
- Dealing with stressful life events.

0-12 Positive Parenting

This seminar introduces parents to the five key principles of positive parenting that form the basis of Triple P. These principles are:

- Ensuring a safe engaging environment.
- Creating a positive learning environment.
- Using assertive discipline.
- Having reasonable expectations.
- Looking after yourself as a parent.

0-12 Raising Confident and Competent Children

In this seminar, parents are introduced to six core building blocks for children to become confident and successful at school and beyond. These competencies are:

- Showing respect to others.
- Being considerate.
- Having good communication and social skills.
- Having healthy self-esteem.
- Being a good problem solver.
- Becoming independent.



Teen - Getting Teenagers Connected

Practitioners introduce parents to different aspects of teaching their teenagers to develop supportive friendships and become engaged in appropriate social and recreational groups and activities in the wider community. Parents are given specific ideas about teaching their teenagers the following skills:

- Being confident.
- Being socially skilled.
- Planning ahead.
- Meeting commitments.
- Keeping in contact.
- Taking care of others

Teen - Raising Competent Teenagers

Practitioners introduce parents to six aspects of teenagers becoming confident and successful in school and the community. Parents are given specific ideas to teach and encourage the following:

- Developing self-discipline.
- Establishing good routines.
- Getting involved in school activities.
- Being a good problem solver.
- Following school rules.
- Having supportive friends.

Teen - Raising Responsible Teenagers

Practitioners introduce parents to the six key elements of teenager's becoming responsible and specific ideas about how to teach and encourage each of the following skills:

- Taking part in family decision-making.
- Being respectful and considerate.
- Getting involved in family activities.
- Developing a healthy lifestyle.
- Being reliable.
- Being assertive.



0-12 SEND - Positive Parenting for Children with a disability

This seminar promotes strategies for helping parents raise healthy well-adjusted children by looking at:

- Parents Hope and Dreams
- Developmental delay and disability
- Some realities of being a parent
- Children's behaviour, the tough part of being a parent
- What is positive parenting?
- Seven Key principles of being a parent.

0-12 SEND - Helping your Child Reach their Potential

This seminar looks at ideas to support parents to help their child get off to a good start by looking at:

- Choosing a skill to teach
- Break the skill into steps
- Choose rewards
- Decide when and where to teach
- Use effective teaching strategies
- Keep track and review progress

0-12 SEND - Changing Negative Behaviour into Positive Behaviour

This seminar looks at common behaviour problems and key steps to manage them:

- Track the behaviour
- Understand why behaviour is occurring
- Change events that occur before the behaviour
- Encourage alternative behaviour
- Put your plan into action



Father's Day seminar

This seminar promotes the importance of a father's input to a child's development by looking at:-

- The importance of Fatherhood.
- Promote positive relationship between the father and the child.
- Promote the father's parenting skills.
- Exploring child friendly activities to engage in.
- Father's role in supporting the child with managing emotions and risky behaviour.
- Role modelling care and respect.

Time to Sleep

Sleep hygiene is the behavioural and environmental factors that are necessary for a quality night time sleep and full day time alertness. This is an information session for all parents/carers of children 12 months and over. The session will cover:

- The importance of sleep
- How much sleep do children need
- Possible effects of poor sleep
- Introduction to the sleep cycle
- How to promote good sleep
- What makes a good routine



0-12 Hassle Free Outings with Children

This topic uses shopping trips as an example of one of the most common times parents have to deal with difficult behaviour in public.

Positive parenting strategies are discussed as step-by-step suggestions for preventing problems in this and other potentially difficult community situations.

0-12 Dealing with Disobedience

This discussion group covers why some children have difficulty learning to follow instructions.

The group explores strategies and parents develop a personal plan to teach their child limits and manage disobedience when necessary.

0-12 Developing Good Bedtime Routines

This discussion topic explores different problems parents commonly face at bedtime and some of the reasons why they happen.

The skills children need to get into a good bedtime routine are discussed and parents are introduced to positive parenting strategies to help prevent problems.



0-12 Managing Fighting & Aggression

In this session, parents are encouraged to share their experiences of aggressive and destructive behaviour from their children and discuss some of the reasons children fight.

This group covers the skills that children need to be able to cooperate and get along with others. Parents learn how to teach skills such as sharing, communicating, and being gentle. They also prepare plans to manage times when fighting and aggression do occur.

SEND Get Together

We are holding Monthly, hour long SEND Get Togethers.

Each month we will discuss a different SEND Topic, give you an update on the Parenting and MAST SEND Teams and offer some time for questions and answers.



Community Language Discussion Groups

We are offering a selection of discussion groups delivered in different languages with an interpreter. These are currently being arranged and will be advertised in a later What's On Guide when confirmed. Please contact the Team if you require further information.





Teen - Getting Teenagers to Cooperate

During this discussion, parents share some of their experiences and ideas about dealing with non-cooperation and discuss reasons why teenagers can be uncooperative.

Several positive parenting strategies are introduced to help parents develop a plan to motivate their teenager to be more cooperative.



Teen - Coping with Teenagers' Emotions

In this session parents discuss some of the reasons teenagers have emotional reactions and skills that teens need to calm themselves down. Several positive parenting strategies are introduced to help parents teach their teen to better manage their emotions.

Teen - Building Teenagers' Survival Skills

This discussion topic explores why teenagers sometimes make risky decisions and how they can learn to keep themselves safe while gradually developing independence. Parents are introduced to positive parenting strategies to help their teen plan for a situation which may potentially put their health or wellbeing at risk.

Teen - Reducing Family Conflict

During this discussion, parents explore experiences of conflict with their teenager and discuss why sometimes this occurs in families. Positive parenting strategies are introduced to help parents teach their teens how to get along with other family members and resolve problems.





Incredible Baby

The programme builds positive parenting skills and promotes bonding, language and development. It is recommended that baby attends the programme with parent/s

Duration: 10 weeks

Incredible Years Toddler

It deals with the kinds of issues that can make family life stressful. It strengthens parent-child interactions and attachment, reducing harsh discipline and fosters parents' ability to promote their children's social, emotional, and language development.

Duration: 12 weeks

Incredible Years 3-8

The programme builds positive parenting skills and capacity and aims to promote children's health and well-being. The programme looks at the four key components, Play, Praise, Effective Limit Setting and Handling Misbehaviour.

Duration: 15 weeks



EPEC - Being a Parent

This course aims to improve child development outcomes, parenting, family resilience and family relationships. The programme creates a trusting group ethos where parents are encouraged and supported. It is run by parent volunteers who have completed the Empowering Parents Empowering Children training and their experiences, backgrounds, skills and qualities make each session inviting and engaging.

Duration: 8 weeks



0-12 Triple P

Generic universal parenting programme for parents of children 0-12. The programme promotes positive parenting strategies, coping and self-care skills.

Duration: 10 weeks

Teen Triple P

Generic universal parenting programme for parents of teenagers. The programme promotes positive parenting strategies, dealing with emotional and risky behaviours, coping and self-care skills.

Duration: 8 - 10 weeks





Sheffield Parenting Hub has a range of programmes available to all. These are specifically designed for parents and carers of children with SEND.

Stepping Stones

This programme is for parents of children 0-12 who have a child with disability. The programme builds parenting skills for promoting children's development, social competence and self-control and is delivered in a group setting

Duration: 10 - 12 weeks

EPEC - Being a Parent of a Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder

This course will help parents/carers of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. The programme explores ways of managing behaviour, raising self esteem and confidence. It is run by parent volunteers who have completed the Empowering Parents Empowering Children training and their experiences, backgrounds, skills and qualities make each session inviting and engaging.

Duration: 10 weeks

Incredible Years ASD

A 15 week programme for parents of children aged 2-8 years that may be displaying complex challenging behaviour. It tailors to each child's individual needs and their development. It strengthens parent-child interactions and attachment, reducing harsh discipline and fosters parents' ability to promote their children's social, emotional, and language development.

Incredible Years has been evaluated for over 30 years working with families of children with ADHD, ASD and Language delays all over the world and has been proven to work!

Duration: 15 weeks



Teen Triple P ASD

A ten week programme of Teen Parenting and Mood Management strategies. Based on Triple P's proven parenting strategies, it gives ways to deal with the kinds of teenager behaviour problems & issues that can make family life stressful. It gives parents practical strategies around managing emotions and behaviours common in young people with ASD including strategies to identify and control feelings that can help with their child's emotional development.

Duration: 10 weeks





Co-parenting is a challenge whether you are parents living together or parents who are separated. In Sheffield we recognise this and have the following programmes you can access to support.

Family Transitions

This is a parallel programme for parents/carers who are experiencing personal stress from separation or divorce which is impacting or complicating parenting. It gives parents ways to limit the negative effects on child development by promoting parenting and family processes that contribute to family adjustment after separation. It focuses on skills to resolve conflicts and cope positively with stress.

Duration: 6 weeks

EPEC - Being a Parent Together

This programme is specifically for parents and carers who are concerned about disagreements, quarrels and unresolved difficulties in their relationship that is affecting their parenting. This conflict may at times put the couple's relationship at risk of separation and breakdown. It aims to improve child development and outcomes, parenting, family resilience and family relationships. The Being a Parent Together course creates a trusting group ethos, where parents are encouraged and supported.

Duration: 10 weeks

Separated Parents Information Programme (SPIP) - In Partnership with CAFCASS

This is a one off programme for 4 hours and helps parents who are not in the court arena to understand how to put their children first whilst they separate.

The programme encourages separated parents to behave in the best interests of their children and to become clearer about what their children need most from them. The programme also equips parents with skills to take steps for themselves; this may include developing agreements that do not need court intervention.

Parents do not attend the same session as their ex-partner, but the sessions give parents the tools to help support them and their child/children during this difficult time.

Duration: 4 hours

EPEC - Being a Parent Together Workshop

This workshop is for co-parenting couples to attend together who are either living together or apart. This is an opportunity to reflect on what is working well in the family, putting the children's needs first and what areas could be further developed or changed. The workshop aims to improve child development and outcomes, parenting, family resilience and family relationships. The Being a Parent Together workshop course creates a trusting group ethos, where parents are encouraged and supported.

Duration: 2 hours, 15 mins





Seminars

To book on a seminar, please visit our Eventbrite Page:
<http://bit.ly/SheffParentHub> and select the correct session.

Discussion Groups

To book on a Discussion Group, please visit our Eventbrite Page:
<http://bit.ly/SheffParentHub> and select the correct session.

Group Programmes

Booking for a programme is essential and may require a referral from a professional agency depending on your family circumstances. Please contact us to discuss this with one of our Parenting Specialists on **0114 2057243** or sheffieldparenting@sheffield.gov.uk

Tips and information from Sheffield Family Centres and Sheffield Parent Hub will be shared on our social media pages:



@SheffieldFamilyCentres



@SheffFamilyCtrs



@SheffieldFamilyCentres



Sheffield Family Centres



Group Programmes Calendar

0-12 Triple P	8 th Sept – 3 rd Nov 10am – 12pm Online session 21 st Sept – 9 th Nov 10am – 12pm Venue TBA
Incredible Baby	14 th Sept – 2 nd Nov 10:30am – 12:30pm Venue TBA 21 st Oct – 9 th Dec 10:30am – 12:30pm Online session
Incredible Toddler	Programme dates TBA
Incredible Years 3-8	9 th Sept – 16 th Dec 1pm – 2:15pm Online session 5 th Oct – 25 th Jan 10am – 12pm Venue TBA
EPEC - Being a Parent	29 th Sept – 24 th Nov 10am – 12:15pm Venue TBA 11 th Oct – 8 th Dec 11am – 1pm Venue TBA
Teen Triple P	6 th Oct – 25 th Jan 10am – 12:15pm Venue TBA 2 nd Nov – 14 th Dec 10am – 12:15pm Online session
Stepping Stones	23 rd Sept – 18 th Nov 10am – 12:15pm Venue TBA 13 th Oct – 8 th Dec 10am – 12:15pm Online session
Incredible Years ASD	17 th Sept – 14 th Jan 10am – 11:30am Online session 7 th Oct – 10 th Feb 10:30am – 12:30pm Online session 2 nd Nov – 1 st March 12:30pm – 2:30pm Venue TBA
Teen Triple P ASD	15 th Sept – 8 th Dec 10am – 12:15pm Venue TBA 5 th Nov – 4 th Feb 10am – 12:00pm Online session
EPEC – Being a Parent of a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder	14 th Sept – 30 th Nov 6pm – 8pm Online session 15 th Sept – 24 th Nov 10am – 12:15pm Venue TBA 30 th Sept – 9 th Dec 10am – 12:15pm Online session 6 th Oct – 15 th Dec 10am – 12:15pm Online session
EPEC - Being a Parent Together	15 th Sept – 24 th Nov 10am – 12:15pm Online session 22 nd Sept – 1 st Dec 10am – 12:15pm Online session
Family Transitions & Separated Parents Information Programme (SPIP)	Please email Sheffieldparenting@sheffield.gov.uk for dates/times/venues

Discussion Groups & Seminars Calendar

Sept 2021	(SEM) The Power of Positive Parenting 7 th Sept 10am – 12pm Online session.	(SEM) Time to Sleep ASD 13 th Sept 10am – 12pm Online session	(SEM) Raising Responsible Teenagers 14 th Sept 10am – 12pm Online session	(DG) SEND Get Together 16 th Sept 10am – 11am Online session	(SEM) Father's Seminar 20 th Sept 6pm – 7:30pm Online session.	(SEM) Positive Parenting for Children with Additional needs 28 th Sept 10am – 12pm Online session.
Oct 2021	(SEM) Changing Problem Behaviour into Positive Behaviour 12 th Oct 10am – 12pm Online session	(SEM) Raising Confident, Competent Children 16 th Oct 10am – 12pm Online session.	(SEM) Raising Competent Teenagers 19 th Oct 6pm – 8pm Online session	(DG) Coping with Teenagers emotions 27 th Oct 10am – 12:15pm Online session		
Nov 2021	(SEM) Raising Resilient Children 2 nd Nov 10am – 12pm Online session.	(DG) Dealing with Disobedience 12 th Nov 10am – 12:15pm Online session	(SEM) Time to Sleep 15 th Nov 10am – 12pm Online session	(SEM) Getting Teenagers Connected 16 th Nov 10am – 12pm Online session	(SEM) Helping your Child Reach their Potential 23 rd Nov 10am – 12pm Online session	

We are continually updating our discussion groups and seminars. Please visit our Eventbrite page for a full schedule of sessions:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/sheffield-parent-hub-17631456258>