



# Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 27th November 2023

[www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org](http://www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org)

**Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.**



Attendance figures for week ending 24th November.

Class	Attendance (%)
Miss Clewes	92.4
Mrs Hibberd	95.3
Mrs Thorpe	87.5
Miss White/Mrs Briggs	97.8
Miss Hughes/Mrs Bettinson	92.5
Mrs Timmons	93.0

Whole school attendance = 93.2%

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, please ring as early as possible on 0114 248 2360. Choose Option 2.

## Office Opening Hours

The **main school office** is open each day from 8am - 4pm, and the phone will be answered within these hours. Outside of these hours you will have the opportunity to leave an answer phone message, which will be replied to, if necessary, when the office is next open.

If you need to contact **nursery** for any reason, then please call the school office number (including if your child will be absent). If you call the nursery number, this will automatically divert to the school office.

## Trousers, jogging bottoms and polo shirts still needed

We would still be very grateful for **trousers, jogging bottoms and polo shirts** (all sizes) please!

## PE days - reminder

Every half term Year 1 and Year 2 switch PE days so that all children get to work with the two coaches we have in school on these days. F2's day stays the same. Therefore, for this half term the Big PE days are:

**F2 = Tuesday**

**Year 1 = Thursday**

**Year 2 = Friday**

## Learners of the week

Congratulations to last week's Learners of the Week!

	
<b>Billy and Ava G</b>	<b>Lola and Amelia</b>
	
<b>William and Julia</b>	<b>Jay and Jenson</b>
	
<b>Chester and Emma</b>	<b>Ayven and Molly-Maye</b>

## Reading books

We know how much families and children are enjoying our phonics scheme, and the reading books being sent home. In order for all children to continue to have access to these books it is **really important that they are brought back to school promptly and in a good condition.**

We do not have the school funds to replace books on a regular basis. Therefore, failure to return your child's previous week's books will result in your child only having access to a digital copy of their new book for the following week. Staff sign books out and in to ensure those returning books continue to receive physical books to share at home, and reminders to bring missing books back are sent via Tapestry and text messages. If the number of missing books continues to increase then we will be looking to charge for these books, as this makes our sets of books incomplete and, therefore, unable to be used by other groups of children in school.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

## Winter Reading Challenge!

### **What is the Winter Mini Challenge?**

The Challenge encourages children to keep up their reading habits over the winter holidays, with a free-to-access website featuring rewards and incentives for reading and reviewing books. The Reading Agency teamed up with WWF UK for the Wild World Heroes Summer Reading Challenge - exploring nature and action for the environment through reading. Now the Heroes are back to help with the Winter Mini Challenge!



Join the Wild World Heroes as they embark on an Arctic adventure to find out about the creatures that live there. You will find out about the environmental issues facing this remote place and might even spot a narwhal or two. This year's Winter Mini Challenge will run from **Wednesday 1 December 2023 to 19 February 2024.**

### **Why is the Challenge important?**

Over the school holidays children can experience a 'dip' in reading skills and learning. We hope the Winter Mini Challenge can provide reading encouragement and fun for children and families.

### **How can children take part in the Winter Mini Challenge?**

The Winter Mini Challenge is run through the Reading Agency's year-round children's website. To take part, children simply read three books or more - these can be any books of their choice. Every time they finish a book, they add it to their Challenge website profile and leave a short book review.

Reaching their online reading goal will unlock a special virtual badge and a new Wild World Hero certificate to print off and keep! You will also be able to find fun activities, videos and reading recommendations, plus an exciting competition.

Children can visit the Winter Mini Challenge website at [www.wintermini.org.uk](http://www.wintermini.org.uk) from 1 December to start rating and reviewing their books and enjoying the online activities.

### **Get involved**

Visit the online Shop to download your free Winter Mini Challenge resources pack. The pack includes a brand-new Completer's Certificate, so you can celebrate reading achievement at home. You will also find a brilliant Arctic-themed Reading Record and Activity Sheet for children to enjoy!

## Online safety

At school we teach children how to stay safe both off and online. The online world is a key part of modern life and will play a huge part in the lives our pupils lead as they grow up. Therefore, it is critical that we teach them how to stay safe and conduct themselves in an appropriate way when online.

As a parent it can be hard to keep up with the constant developments of the online world, therefore, each week we will be sharing age-appropriate information and tips on how to help your child stay safe, and where you can go for further information.



**See our new online safety page at the end of this newsletter.**

# Christmas!

Thank you for completing the text form telling us for which performances you would like Christmas tickets. The booking form has now closed and we will let you know your ticket allocation this week. Don't forget that all babies or toddlers coming will also need a ticket.

## Winter Fair

### **Winter Fair - 4th December**

In preparation for our Winter Fair the HIP Group (Halfway Infant Parent Group) are asking for donations of:

**Pre-loved books and jigsaw puzzles** - these can be brought in now.

**Cakes/ biscuits** - to be brought into school on the morning of Monday 4th December (shop-bought and home-made cakes and biscuits are welcome, however please provide a list of ingredients on any items that are home-made).

Our Winter Fair will take place in the School hall. Each class has a time slot to visit the fair. Parents are welcome to come and join their child during the time slot. If you are unable to attend the fair, then your child will still visit it with their class teacher and you are able to send in a small amount of money that they will be able to spend (we suggest no more than £5 in a named envelope/wallet).

Time slots for each class are below:

9:10am – 9:40am = Nursery

9:55am – 10:25am = Elmers

10:40am – 11:10am = Gruffalos

11:25am – 11:55am = Hungry Caterpillars

1pm – 1:30pm = Rainbow Fish

1:45pm – 2:15pm = Crafty Chameleons

2:25pm – 2:55pm = Enormous Crocodiles

Please access school via the Station Road gate and the back door and not the main entrance. Staff will let you into the building once your child's class is in the school hall.

All children will have made a special Christmas keep-sake that you will be able to buy at the Winter fair for £1.50.

Raffle tickets for the hampers will be sold during the Winter Fair.

### **Donations needed**

We are also asking for donations for our popular Christmas coloured hampers! As before, each year group has been assigned a colour. Please bring in items of this colour for the hampers from today. Suggested items to bring in are: biscuits, chocolates, sweets, stationery, Christmas decorations, candles, toiletries etc.

Nursery = **yellow**

Foundation Stage 2 = **green**

Year 1 = **red**

Year 2 = **blue**

# Measles

We have been asked by the Public Health Team to share the following information regarding measles as health services across the country are starting to see an increase in the number of cases of measles.

## **Vaccination against measles (MMR)**

The most important thing to help prevent the spread of measles is to ensure that everyone is vaccinated.

It is important to have the MMR vaccine and we are asking parents/carers to take up the offer of an MMR vaccine if their children are not fully vaccinated.

The free MMR vaccine is a safe and effective way of protecting against measles, as well as mumps and rubella. The best way to prevent children getting measles is to make sure they have their two MMR vaccines on time – the first at 1 year of age and the second at 3 years, 4 months.

If parents/carers and their children have missed these vaccines, it's not too late. If parents/carers are unsure if their child has received the MMR vaccine, they should check the 'Red Book' which is updated when vaccinations have been given or contact their GP practice.

Parents/carers can ask for the free vaccine from their GP if they or their children are not up to date.

For more information about measles, visit the Healthier Together website or the NHS.uk website.

For more information on the MMR vaccination, visit: [www.nhs.uk/mmr](http://www.nhs.uk/mmr).

## **Symptoms of Measles**

Parents/carers are being advised to watch out for the symptoms of measles in their children and act if they suspect they have the infection. Measles usually starts with cold-like symptoms, followed by a rash which usually starts on the face or behind the ears a few days later. Some people may also get small spots in their mouth.

The first symptoms are:

- \* high fever
- \* sore, red, watery eyes
- \* cough
- \* aching and feeling generally unwell
- \* a blotchy red / brown rash on white skin - it may be harder to see or more subtle on brown and black skin

Anyone with symptoms that could be measles is advised to stay at home and phone their GP or NHS 111 for advice, rather than visiting the surgery or A&E. This is because measles spreads very quickly and easily and so it is important to try and prevent the illness spreading further.

People with symptoms should also especially try to stay away from areas where they could come into contact with vulnerable people such as schools, nurseries, or care homes.

They should stay away from GP surgeries and hospital emergency departments as they could spread the illness to vulnerable people.

If it is absolutely necessary for them to bring their child into their GP surgery, a walk-in centre or a hospital emergency department, they should not use public transport to get there as they will risk infecting others. They should ask NHS 111 or 999 for help with transport if they need to be seen by a doctor.

As soon as they arrive, they should inform reception that they are infectious so that they can be kept away from other people to minimise the chances of the infection spreading.



- measles outbreaks happen when not enough children have been vaccinated
- measles can be a very serious disease, leading to ear and chest infections, fits, diarrhoea, and damage to the brain. Measles can kill
- your child is at risk of measles if he or she hasn't had the MMR vaccination
- 2 doses of MMR vaccine are needed to get the best protection
- if your child is due to have had 2 doses of MMR but has not yet received them, no matter what age they are, you should contact your GP to get them vaccinated as soon as possible\*
- if you can't remember if your child has had any, 1 or 2 doses of MMR vaccine, check his or her personal child health record (the Red Book). If this doesn't help, speak to your GP
- if you don't know how many doses your child has had, it's better to have 2 doses of MMR vaccine now rather than risk leaving them unprotected

\*In response to a local outbreak then the 2 doses can be given one month apart from the age of 18 months.

## Police Christmas card design—reminder

South Yorkshire Police are inviting all young budding artists to enter their competition to design their official South Yorkshire Police 2023 Christmas card.

This year, Chief Constable Lauren Poultney and other members of team SYP will choose their favourite winning design to be made into their force Christmas card and shared with their partners and colleagues.

They would like entrants to think outside the box and use their creative flare to make something to show South Yorkshire Police spreading Christmas cheer. The more creative the better!

The competition is open to children aged 12 and under and they must have parental consent to enter the competition. The closing date for entries is midnight on Friday 1 December and the winner will be announced on Tuesday 5 December.

You can submit your design entries via twitter, email or in the post. Tweet your entries to us at @syptweet using the hashtag #XmasCardSY

**Email us at:** [corporatecomms@southyorks.pnn.police.uk](mailto:corporatecomms@southyorks.pnn.police.uk)

**Post:** South Yorkshire Police,  
Corporate Communications,  
Carbrook House,  
Carbrook Hall Road  
S9 2DB

### Terms and conditions

- All entries should be on A4 paper
- Entrants must be aged 12 or under at the time of entry.
- Entrants must have parental consent to enter the competition including permission for SYP to publish the entrants name and age on social media.
- For entries to be counted, they must include the child's name, age, address and a parent/guardians contact telephone number.
- The winner must give permission for the image to be used in promotional activities by the Force, both internal and external and be distributed to the media and used on social media.

**Let us know if you enter the competition as we would love to see your designs!**



The poster features a winter scene with a snow-covered igloo, a penguin, a red postbox, and a sign that says 'POLICE'. The text reads: 'Children's CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION'. Below the image, it says: 'Can you design our Christmas Card for 2023? Our Chief Constable Lauren Poultney and other members of team SYP will choose their favourite design as the competition winner. The closing date is midnight on Friday 1 December.'

#XmasCardSY

South Yorkshire POLICE

## Diary Dates

See below for diary dates for the rest of this term.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>Monday 4th December</b>	Winter Fair
<b>Tuesday 5th December</b>	January Nursery starters welcome meeting
<b>Wednesday 6th December</b>	Flu immunisations
<b>Thursday 7th December</b>	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
<b>Monday 11th December</b>	Christmas Sports Fun (F2 and Y1)
<b>Monday 11th December</b>	Y2 visit to HJS to watch the Nativity
<b>Tuesday 12th December</b>	Y2 choir visit to Rose Cottage Residential Home
<b>Wednesday 13th December</b>	F2 Christmas performance (am) Nursery Christmas performance (pm) Family of Schools Carol Concert at Crystal Peaks (6pm)
<b>Thursday 14th December</b>	Nursery Christmas performance (am) F2 Christmas performance (pm)
<b>Friday 15th December</b>	RockSteady Concert (am) Father Christmas school visit (all day) Y2 Crafty Chameleons trip to Westfield for Multi-Sports competition
<b>Monday 18th December</b>	Y1 Christmas performance (pm)
<b>Tuesday 19th December</b>	Y1 Christmas performance (am)
<b>Wednesday 20th December</b>	Christmas dinner day Y2 Christmas performance (am and pm)
<b>Thursday 21st December</b>	Y2 Christmas performance (am) Nursery Christmas party
<b>Friday 22nd December</b>	F2 and KS1 Christmas party End of term - Happy Christmas!





Staying  
Safe

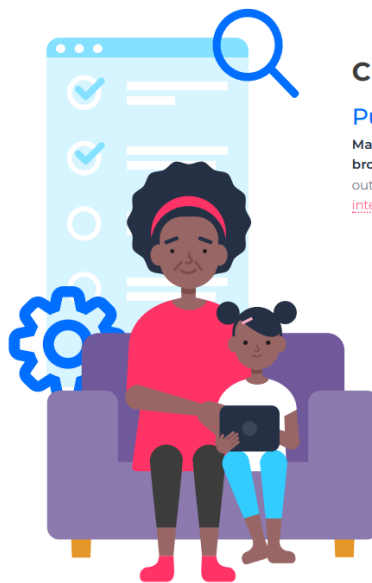
Online

# Online safety tips for parents of pre-school children 0-5 Year Olds

internet  
matters.org

22% of parents of 3-4-year-olds don't think their child has a good balance between screen time and other activities

\*Source: Ofcom Children and parents: media use and attitudes report 2022



## Checklist:

### Put yourself in control

Make use of parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. You can find out how at your broadband provider's website or [by visiting internetmatters.org](https://www.internetmatters.org).

### Search safely

Use safe search engines such as [swiggle.org.uk](https://www.swiggle.org.uk) or [kids-search.com](https://www.kids-search.com). **Safe search settings can also be activated on Google and other search engines** as well as YouTube and it is possible to lock these so that they can't be inadvertently removed. You can find out more by [visiting the Google Safety Centre](https://www.google.com/safetycenter). Once you've put all of these controls in place have a browse and search for a few things to see what your children might see, if they were to do the same. Remember that voice-activated search works really well now.

## Know this stuff matters, but don't know where to turn?

Internet Matters is a free online resource for every parent in the UK. We'll show you the best ways to protect your children online – with information, advice and support on all the big online safety issues.



44%  
of 5-10 year olds  
have their own  
mobile phone\*

81%  
use a tablet  
to go online\*

\*Source: Ofcom Children and parents: Media use and attitudes report 2022

Useful websites:

[www.saferinternet.org.uk](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

[www.internetmatters.org](https://www.internetmatters.org)

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

[www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety)