



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 18th October 2021

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
What's Happening this Week?	F2 Big PE Day		Y1 Big PE Day	Y2 Big PE Day	INSET DAY— School closed to children on 22.10.21 due to staff training day
And Next Week ?	School Closed				

School attendance figures

Attendance for the week ending
15th October 2021:

Class	Attendance (%)
Enormous Crocodiles	91.8
Crafty Chameleons	89.9
Rainbow Fish	86.2
Hungry Caterpillars	94.1
Gruffalos	87.5
Elmers	83.6

Overall attendance for the week was 88.8%

Home Learning PE Challenge

This Week's Challenge: How many star jumps can you do in 1 minute? Can you challenge a family member? Can you beat them?

No equipment needed. You will need a big enough space so that you can do this safely.

Physical fact: Practising jumping is really important for your balance and stability. It is also good cardio exercise.



Public Health advice

As you are aware, cases of Covid-19 are unfortunately increasing. Following a small number of cases in school and nursery recently, we have been advised by the Public Health team to monitor children for any signs of them being unwell. The team has advised that children should not come to school/nursery if they are feeling generally unwell (sniffles/sore throat etc.), in addition to encouraging parents/carers to **book a PCR test** for their child if they show any of the key symptoms of Covid-19 (persistent cough, high temperature, change to/loss of smell/taste. Please note it should be a PCR test for symptomatic people—processed in a laboratory—and not a LFD test.

Thank you for your support as we work together to try and minimise risks to our school community.

Crossing on Station Road - work started today!

Today the Council started work on a crossing on Station Road designed to improve safety for parents/carers and children etc. who need to cross this busy thoroughfare. The work is expected to last for 2 months (as work is needed on underground services) and work times will be limited to between 9.30am and 2.30pm to avoid any congestion on paths etc. around school drop off/collection times. We have requested that the Council's contractors keep the gates to the school grounds clear during their work.

An area of land outside school (usually used for car parking) has also been fenced off over the weekend, so parking outside school is currently limited. Please walk to school where you are able so that the number of vehicles on the roads outside school can be kept to a minimum for the safety of the children.

Nut free school

We are a 'nut free' school to help protect children who attend with severe allergies. Please ensure that children's lunchboxes from home are also nut free by checking ingredients and labels carefully before sending packed lunches into school.

Reception Baseline Assessments

As F2 parents/carers were informed when their children first started F2, we have been administering the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) with all our reception aged children. In line with national guidance, this was completed within the first 6 weeks of a child starting in F2.

The purpose of the assessment is to provide the starting point for a new measure that will help parents understand how well schools support their pupils to progress between reception and year 6 / the end of key stage 2.

When your child reaches year 6/the end of key stage 2, you will be able to see how well your child's school has supported the year group in their time at primary school, compared to other schools nationally.

The data from the assessment will only be used by the Department for Education when your child has reached the end of year 6, to provide the baseline to measure the progress of your child's year group from reception to year 6. The data from the assessment, including numerical scores, is not shared with parents/carers, pupils, teachers, or external bodies, including schools, and there will be no published scores at pupil, school or national level.

For more information please speak to your child's teacher as they will be able to answer any questions about the Reception Baseline Assessment. For more details you can also visit www.gov.uk/STA.

Extra curricular clubs to start again after half term for KS1 (Y1 and Y2)

We are keen to offer extra curricular opportunities that our KS1 children will enjoy, whilst maintaining safety in terms of Covid-19 and staffing capacity, and so will be starting to introduce after school activity clubs again in Autumn Term 2.

Sheffield schools are unfortunately seeing increasing Covid-19 rates, and we have been advised by the council this week to consider some enhanced measures to reduce the risk of transmission, including limiting visitors to school.

We will therefore be using our current sports coaches to offer these sessions to individual year groups to keep consistency in the adults in school and to avoid mixing groups. We hope this approach will be manageable and keep everyone as safe as possible, whilst offering opportunities for children to get active and have fun! We have decided to offer the clubs to our older KS1 children next half term (one club for Y1 and the other for Y2), given that it is the first term of full time schooling for our younger children. We hope to offer additional opportunities in the future.

This time, we are using a text-based application form; all parents\carers with children in Y1 and Y2 should have received a text inviting them to complete an application if their child would like to take part in their allotted club. The closing date for applications is Thursday 21 October, and we will contact the children who have been allocated a place during w/b 1 November, with clubs starting w/b 8 November.

We have already had a lot of applications which unfortunately means that not every child will get a place this time. The names will be 'picked out of a hat' to try to make it as fair as possible, and we hope to offer more clubs in the future to give more children a chance of joining one of our extra curricular opportunities.

Times Tables Rockstars—a guide for parents/carers

All children have a log in for Times Table Rock Stars so they can have fun practising their times table facts at home (ask your child's class teacher if you cannot access this) and also join in with events like the TT Rockstars Challenge. We suggest a "little and often" approach for practising times table facts so it is not too overwhelming for children e.g. 3 minutes practice a day, 4 or 5 times a week is a good target. Here is a guide to the game itself -

What are the different Game Modes?



Single Player

Garage 10 coins per correct answer	Players answer the tables selected by their teacher or by TTRS' Auto trainer. Important: if you feel your child is overwhelmed by the number of tables they're practising, please speak to their teacher. We suggest to teachers to select one table per week with small combinations every third or fourth week. If your child is on Auto, they will practise the one table chosen for them* in small chunks of 4 questions at a time. Our algorithm selects the table after a Gig game.
Gig 10 coins per correct answer	If your child is on Auto training they will periodically play Gig games to assess which table is best for them to practise in the Garage. Important: players must give each Gig performance their full concentration to demonstrate their tables skills. They may be returned to an earlier table if not.
Jamming 4 or 8 coins/correct answer	The only game mode without a timer, your child chooses the table and the operation (\times or \div or both) they want to practise. Answer 10, 20 or 30 questions.
Studio 1 coin per correct answer	Here your child earns their Rock Status, which is based on their Studio Speed. The faster they are the better their status. Studio Speed is the average of their most recent 10 Studio games. Suitable for confident players.
Soundcheck 5 coins per correct answer	Soundcheck games ask 25 multiplication questions (up to 12×12), allowing 6 seconds for each question. Suitable for confident players.

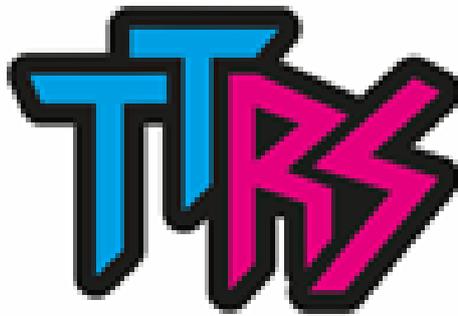
Multi Player

Festival 1 coin per correct answer	Children compete against others from around the world, with their identities protected behind their rock names. Suitable for confident players.
Arena 1 coin per correct answer	Children race against other members of their class who are logged in and choose the same arena name at the same time. Like Garage, Arena games ask questions that are either set by the teacher or by TTRS' Auto trainer.
Rock Slam 1 coin per correct answer	Players challenge their classmates or teachers to answer as many questions as they can in 60 seconds, setting a score for the challenge to beat. Pupils don't need to be online at the same time.
Tournaments	Battle of the Bands – groups of children within the same school (usually classes, year groups or teams) compete to have the highest average score per player. Important: Each correct answer (in any game mode) earns 1 point towards the team's total in addition to the coins earned. For example, in Garage games each correct answer is worth 1 point for the team and 10 coins for the player.
	Top of the Rocks – think of this as a Battle of the Bands <i>between</i> schools. The winning class or school is the one with the most correct answers per person. Players' identities are always protected behind their "Rock Names."

Times Tables Rockstars—continued

Learners with different needs

How can I hide the timer?	Start a game and press  > Hide Practice Clock. You could also play a game in Jamming.
How can I increase the length of Garage games?	Single player > Garage > press the little arrow below “play solo” > choose 1, 2 or 3 minutes.
The tables are too hard	Make sure your child is playing in Garage or Arena game modes. If this does not resolve the issue, please speak to your child’s teacher. Remember that Jamming mode allows the child to choose the tables themselves.
My child gets anxious	Try the three above plus: setting mini goals (e.g. complete 2 minutes today, get 1 more point in the next game, pass 1 level); having a break from online play (come back in a couple of days); and reminding them of Baz’s words: “A good rock star stays chillaxed by accepting they make mistakes.”
My child has visual impairments; what settings are available?	Head to the Profile page where you can: change the colour scheme; reduce the visual stimuli with Declutter mode; increase the font size or switch to a dyslexia-friendly font called Lexie. play.ttrockstars.com is also screen reader compatible.
Can I turn off division?	Yes in Jamming mode but not in the other games. The reason for that is that practising multiplication and division at the same time supports the recall of both and is the most successful approach. If your child is finding division confusing, please speak to their teacher about starting with the 10s only and for advice on how to help at home.



School lunches this week—limited menu

Please note that, due to unforeseen circumstances, we are offering a limited menu this week for school lunches. Children will be able to choose from a jacket potato with a choice of fillings or a school ham/cheese sandwich (dietary requirements still catered for within the options available).

Our usual menu will resume after half term. Thank you for your understanding.



Friends Group

news

As you can see from the panel (*right*) the Friends Group has had a big impact in school over the years.

Due to the pandemic, the Friends group hasn't been able to meet or plan any activities for the past 18 months.

As a school, we'd still like to be able to access the funds that the group used to provide; our children will still get a gift from Santa this year, as there was enough money left 'in the pot' to fund these, but the coffers are now almost bare!

To raise funds for Easter activities, school staff are organising 'Design a Christmas Card' and 'Buy a class tea towel' activities, but we'd really like to get our whole school community involved in supporting our children.

Would you like to support us?

You could:

- Help your child to design their Christmas card, and order some copies to send to friends and family
- Order some class tea towels (they make good Christmas presents!)
- Help Santa and his elves to wrap presents (please speak to Mrs Tatham in the School Office on 0114 2482360 if you can help with this: paper and tape provided!)
- Talk to other parents/carers about what activities you'd like to see in school, and how these could be provided. We're open to any ideas you may have: please speak to Mrs Bestall or Mrs Tatham in the School Office if you can help in any way.

The Friends of HNIS (formerly known as **HIP Group**) planned **events** such as the Beach Party Summer Fayre, the Winter Fayre and the Autumn & Spring Discos. It also organised the Christmas Card scheme, Easter Egg hunts, Photos with Santa and lots of other great activities.



Since its creation, the group has raised in excess of **£50,000**, which has been used to provide, amongst other things, new playground markings, classroom equipment and new technologies, as well as book bags, Christmas gifts and entertainers. It also paid for the trim trail and story telling area.



In the last couple of months, the group has funded new play kitchens for our Nursery and F2 classes.

It also provided a book bag for each of our new children.

Free Food Vouchers For October Half Term Holiday

Last week the Government announced a new **Household Support Grant** to provide help for vulnerable households, for food, fuel and other essential household costs. Sheffield City Council recognises that many families continue to face financial difficulties because of the pandemic and changes to Universal Credit.

Sheffield City Council is providing free food vouchers to eligible families as a priority over half term which they will follow up with further support over the coming months, once it has established how the Government expects additional funding to be used.

A £15 food voucher will be sent to the following groups to help over the October Half Term holiday:

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

Eligible families should receive letters from the Council about this by the end of this week.

The Process

As before, parents/carers need to go to the following website to redeem their October vouchers -

www.selectyourcompliment.co.uk/grocery

Enter the unique 16-digit e-Code and select the chosen supermarket. Edenred give a choice of 10 supermarkets: Aldi, Tesco, Asda, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, M&S, McColl's, Iceland and Farmfoods.

The downloaded E-Gift Card/Voucher will arrive by email within 24 hours. If you can't find this, please check your Junk/Spam folder.

Please note 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.

A short 'How to...' video for parents/carers can be found on YouTube - <https://youtu.be/J6yyWq8jV-k>

Where can families get further help?

The FSM Voucher helpline will be available on 0114 2734567, option 4, option3, 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 by telephoning 0333 400 5932.

Please note: If you are facing financial hardship there is free advice and support available at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/ or 0808 278 7820. You can also find further information about support at:

www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/your-city-council/coronavirus-hub/support-for-people

Thank you for all your support and understanding this half term.

Have a lovely break—please remember school and nursery are closed this Friday and all of next week, but we hope you have a lovely week off filled with autumnal fun with your family!

Paula Bestall

Headteacher