



Weekly Family Newsletter

Tuesday 7th June 2022

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---|--|---|----------------------|
| What's Happening this Week? | School Closed | Y1 Phonics Screening week (and Y2 re-takes) | Y2 Get Set for PE School office opens! | Y1 Get Set for PE | |
| And Next Week ? | | | Y2 Get Set for PE Y2 Encanto Song and Dance After School Club | Y1 Get Set for PE Y1 Multiskills After School Club | Group Photograph Day |



Attendance for the week ending 27th May 2022:

| Class | Attendance (%) |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Mrs Jordan | 90.6 |
| Mrs Hibberd | 90.5 |
| Miss Dale | 93.2 |
| Mrs Bettinson/Mrs Briggs | 94.3 |
| Miss Hughes/ Mrs Hipkin | 88.8 |
| Mrs Timmons | 98.3 |

Overall attendance for the week was 92.7%

Dates for the diary

- **Wed 6th July** - Sports Day (led by Sports Leaders from Westfield - times for each year group TBC).
- **Wed 13th July**—Transition Day to next classes for all year groups. More end of year plans/dates for the diary to follow next week!
- **2022/23 INSET Days** The INSET days for 2022/2023 have been agreed with the Junior School. They are...
Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd September 2022
Tuesday January 3rd 2023
Monday February 20th 2023
Friday May 26th 2023

Could we please ask that, if parents/carers need to cancel a Super Kids after school care booking, they please let Jenette know in good time (tel. 2470564) so the place can be offered to another child.

Thank you

Welcome back to school and into the last half term of the school year. I hope you have all had a fantastic half term and that you thoroughly enjoyed the Platinum Jubilee celebrations with those you love the most.

Building work

It is with the greatest pleasure that I can announce that the actual building work on our office block project is **COMPLETE** (...if I could add a celebratory emoji here, then I would)! The handover of keys from the building contractor to school officially happened this morning, and the final work will be completed over the next day or two.

As you will have noticed this morning, the contractors' welfare facilities and tools etc. have also been cleared from our site over the holiday, and this just leaves our temporary storage units/toilets.

Y2 - please continue using the door you have been using for the past couple of months whilst we finish setting the office up.

The 'big move' back into the offices etc. this week will include some downtime for IT and phone lines as the services in our temporary office now need to be disconnected and reconnected to the new office building.

We are hopeful that the new office, children's toilets and main entrance will be ready to use in no time at all. Please bear with us in the meantime as, although we are super excited to get in again, this is no mean feat for our small school team! Thank you so much for your patience - we are almost there!

Please note - When the old phone system is disconnected/whilst the new system is being installed, the landline numbers for school and nursery will be diverted to two mobile phone numbers. We shall text you these temporary mobile numbers in case you cannot get through on the landline numbers, but need to contact us in the event of an emergency (NB - the mobile numbers will only be live this week until all lines are available again/the installation of the new system is complete on Friday). To help keep the phone lines clear for necessary calls, there are a few things that would really support this week please:

- Please inform classroom staff about any changes to collection arrangements etc. on the door each morning (wherever possible) rather than calling the school office;
- We know that you are super supportive and really appreciate that you are extremely punctual each morning - this really helps children to learn and teachers to teach without interruption; thank you. As school starts at 8:55am prompt, the gates are also locked at this time each day. Late arrivals who buzz in from the gate also use a phone line to connect to the office, so arriving with school aged children when the doors are open between 8:40am and 8:55am really makes a big difference to your children and our staff. **Thank you for your continued support.**

Transition in preparation for September

Our dedicated team on the Governing Board is finalising leadership planning for September because, as you're aware, this half term will be my last as Headteacher here at Halfway Nursery Infant School before the next chapter begins! Our governors will update you further over the next few weeks.

I write to inform you that Mrs Jordan, our lovely Y2 teacher, will also be leaving at the end of this school year as she has recently accepted a new role on the Senior Leadership Team at a different school. Although we are so happy for her as she really deserves this promotion, we are also very sad that she will, therefore, be leaving school as she is a dedicated and much loved teacher. She will be sadly missed in September. We shall, therefore, need to appoint a new class teacher over the next couple of weeks.

We have lots of fun learning planned for the last half term of the academic year and, whilst we will still be very much focusing on the 'here and now' in our teaching and learning, we are also looking towards September as we want to ensure we have plans in place to prepare the children for their next steps/year groups.

We know that moving onto the next class or onto a new school is a really exciting time, but we also appreciate that the children can also need a little additional reassurance to help them prepare for the change.

In school transition

Once we have recruited a new class teacher for our school, we will be able to share information with you about your child's class teacher from September.

We are pleased to say that opportunities for children to visit their next class/school are possible this year now that restrictions have been lifted e.g. our gorgeous Y2 children who are moving onto Halfway Junior School have been invited to their new school for the day on Wednesday 13th July (more info below!).

On the 13th July there will also be an opportunity for your child to spend the day in their new F2-Y2 classrooms. All the relevant information will also be shared with you later this term in preparation for the move to new year groups.

I have also planned time for teachers to meet to share information with new class teachers about how super your children are so they too can prepare for their new class in September.

If your child is moving from our Nursery onto a different school in your catchment area, or from Y2 to Y3, we are also making contact with new class teachers/schools to share key information to ensure a smooth transition between schools.

Y2 to Y3 transition

The vast majority of our children move to Halfway Junior School. I collected the Y3 transition packs from Mrs Shepherd before half term for children who are due to move to Halfway Junior School this September. These packs were sent home with our Y3 -to-be children at the end of the last week (so please check book bags if you have not seen yours yet!).

The packs include forms you need to complete and also explain key information e.g. this year's transition arrangements to Y3, details of a meeting at the Juniors on 15th July for parents/carers to find out about school and class teachers etc. (Please remember to return your completed forms to the Juniors on one of your visits!).

The Y3 teachers from the Juniors also plan to visit us on 12th July to be introduced to the Y2 children and to spend time with them in the children's familiar surroundings/current Y2 classrooms (the day before our Y2 classes will be spending the full day at the Junior School. Halfway Transition Day is on 13th July both in school and between the two schools).

If your child is due to move to a different school in Y3, that school will be in touch with you directly to share its transition arrangements. We shall, of course, support wherever we can to ensure that transition is a safe, happy and successful one.

New starters in our Nursery and F2 in September

Very similar processes are in place for children who will be new to our nursery or F2 in September. We have sent letters and welcome packs out to welcome new families, along with information about upcoming welcome meetings and visits etc.

Our F2 staff will be making visits to our nursery and have been making individual phone calls home for children who will be completely new to school in September to discuss transition.

Our nursery open day on 27th May was a great way to meet some of our new families, and the nursery team is already in touch with our new nursery starters to share transition arrangements.

Our staff are committed to making sure that both children and parents/carers feel as confident as possible about the next steps - whether this is within our school, or between schools - and we are here to support wherever we can to help ensure that transition is a happy and positive experience for all!

Year 1 Phonics Screening this week

NB - Please inform a member of staff if you know that your Y1 child will be absent during screening week

Thank you to everyone who attended the Phonics Screening Check information session before half term. If you were not able to join the meeting and have a child in Y1, the information was also shared via Tapestry. Please find a few FAQs below!

1. What is the Year 1 Phonics Screening

The national Phonics Screening Check is a statutory assessment that was introduced in 2012 for all Year 1 pupils. It is a short assessment that a child completes independently (on an individual basis with a trained member of staff) to ensure that children are making sufficient progress in their phonics skills to read words and are on track to become fluent readers who can enjoy reading for pleasure and learning. It is designed to give teachers and parents/carers information on how your child is progressing in phonics. It will help to identify whether your child needs additional support in this early reading skill.

2. What is in the Phonics Screening Check?

There are two sections in the 40-word Phonic Screening Check paper - half are real words and half are nonsense words which check a child's ability to decode words. Your child will be asked to read up to four words per page independently, and it takes around 5-10 minutes.

3. What does it check?

It checks that your child can:

- Sound out and blend graphemes in order to read simple words;
- Read phonically decodable one-syllable and two-syllable words, e.g. cat, sand, windmill;
- Read a selection of nonsense words which are referred to as pseudo words.

4. What are Nonsense or Pseudo Words and why are they included?

These are words that are phonically decodable but are not actual words with an associated meaning e.g. brip, snorb. Pseudo words are included in the check specifically to assess whether your child can decode a word using phonics skills and not their memory. The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. This not only makes the check a bit more fun, but provides the children with a context for the nonsense word which is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have. Crucially, it does not provide any clues, so your child has to be able to decode it. Children generally find nonsense ('alien') words amusing and enjoy reading them!

5. Is there a Pass Mark?

Yes, although schools do not find this out until after Phonic Screening Check week. The check is not about passing or failing, but checking that appropriate progress is being made. If children do not reach the required standard by the end of Y1, the teacher will be in touch to discuss plans and additional support for your child, and children who do not meet the pass mark will be able to re-sit the check in Y2.

6. What happens to the results?

The school will report your child's results to you by the end of the Summer Term, as well as submitting results to the Local Authority.

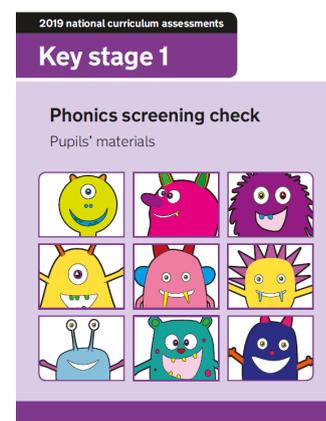
7. Do all schools and children have to participate?

All maintained schools and academies in England must take part in the assessment. Y1 children will be completing the check this week, in addition to any Y2 children who did not meet the threshold of the test when they completed this in December 2021 (NB - the Phonics Screening Check for our current Y2 pupils was postponed from June 2021 to December 2021 due to the pandemic).

There is a process in place for reviewing children who may have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND); if your child's teacher and headteacher thinks there are very special reasons related to your child and their needs that may mean the check is not appropriate, they will decide on appropriate action and discuss this with you.

8. What can I do to support my child, including if they find decoding a word difficult?

- Read often at home, practising the phonics and spellings shared by school
- Say each sound in the word from left to right if they find it difficult to read. Next, blend the sounds by pointing to each letter (for example, b/a/t/ in bat, s/igh/t in sight) as you say the sound, then run your finger under the whole word as you say it.
- Talk about the meaning of the word if your child does not understand the word they have read.
- Be positive and give lots of praise and encouragement :-)



PE Summer 2 2022

So that our F2s have the chance to enjoy PE with our wonderful outside sports providers, there will be a change to some PE days this half-term. Please pop these dates in your diary, so you know when to send your child to school in their PE kit. Thank you for your support.

Dance

Athletics

Get Set 4 PE

| | Week 1 wb 6 June | Week 2 wb 13 June | Week 3 wb 20 June | Week 4 wb 27 June | Week 5 wb 4 July | Week 6 wb 11 July | Week 7 wb 18 July |
|------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| F 2 | School Closed | Jess Dance Monday | Jess Dance Monday | Rich Athletics Thursday | Rich Athletics Thursday | Class Teacher Get Set 4 PE Monday | Class Teacher Get Set 4 PE Monday |
| Y 1 | Class Teacher Get Set 4 PE Thursday | Rich Athletics Thursday | Rich Athletics Thursday | Class Teacher Get Set 4 PE Monday | Class Teacher Get Set 4 PE Monday | Jess Dance Wednesday | Jess Dance Wednesday |
| Y 2 | Class Teacher Get Set 4 PE Wednesday | Class Teacher Get Set 4 PE Wednesday | Class Teacher Get Set 4 PE Wednesday | Jess Dance Wednesday | Jess Dance Wednesday | Rich Athletics Thursday | Rich Athletics Thursday |

PE Challenge of the Week

For the first PE challenge of this term, try rolling a ball or different objects in different directions along the ground.

- **Crouch down and bend your knees.**
- **Watch where you want the object to go and give it a gentle push from behind.**
- **Can you keep up with your object?**

Nursery News

Below is a reminder of the new arrangements for nursery drop off and pick up.

Morning Drop off (8.30am)

This routine will remain the same for nursery. Please wait in the playground next to the Y2 classroom. Nursery staff will come and collect the children from you and walk them safely up to nursery.

If you are running late and the nursery staff have already left, please make your way up to the nursery building and a member of staff will be there to greet you and take your child into nursery.

Morning Pick up (11.30am)

Please use the Station Road entrance to access the school. Please make your way up to the nursery building. You will be able to come into the nursery to collect your child at the end of the nursery session.

Arriving for lunch (11.30am)

Please use the Station Road entrance to access the school and make your way up to the nursery building. A member of nursery staff will be there to greet you and take your child into nursery for lunch.

Afternoon Drop off (12.30pm)

Please use the Station Road entrance to access the school and make your way up to the nursery building. A member of nursery staff will be there to greet you and take your child into nursery.

Afternoon Pick up (3.30pm)

Please use the Station Road entrance to access the grounds after 3:15pm (as the Rotherham Road entrance will be locked) and make your way up to the nursery building. You will be able to come into the nursery at 3:30pm to collect your child at the end of the nursery session and can speak to your child's Key Worker should you wish to.

NB—If you need to collect your child before 3.30pm, your child will be handed over to you at the nursery door as the nursery children will still be in session.

With kindest regards,

Paula Bestall