



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 4th December 2023

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.



Attendance figures for week ending 1st December.

Class	Attendance (%)
Miss Clewes	96.9
Mrs Hibberd	99.0
Mrs Thorpe	88.3
Miss White/Mrs Briggs	99.1
Miss Hughes/Mrs Bettinson	96.0
Mrs Timmons	96.0

Whole school attendance = 96%

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.

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

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!

	
Marshall and Skyla	Frazer and Evelyn
	
Isla and Harriet	Ruaidhri and Jackson
	
Finn and Ivy	Margo and Akashana

The Christmas Post Office has arrived at Halfway Nursery Infants for Christmas 2023!

If your child would like to send cards to their friends in school they can drop them off at the Christmas Post Trolley in the visitor lobby of the main school building. The trolley has a labelled box for each class, so please make sure to pop the cards in the correct box.

Each day some friendly Christmas helpers (School Council 😊) will make sure the cards are delivered.

The Christmas Post Office will be open from 1st - 22nd December. Please make sure cards are clearly labelled with full names so our Christmas delivery helpers can make sure they go to the right person!

Merry Christmas everyone!



Other Christmas News!

Winter Fair

We have had a great day today at our Winter Fair. Children have enjoyed choosing new jigsaws and books, playing Christmas games, eating cakes, having Christmas tattoos and getting their nails painted! If you were able to join us, we hope you also had fun!

The Guess the Snowballs competition was won by Rudi in Nursery, who guessed 900 snowballs. There were actually 889, so he was very close!

The Elf's name is Egg Nog, which was guessed by Harvey in Y2. Well done, Harvey!

A big thank you to all our parent helpers who have organised and run today's event.

Our coloured hampers look fantastic and could be yours for the price of a raffle ticket! We will continue to sell raffle tickets at our Christmas performances, as well as on ParentPay. The winners will be drawn after the second year 2 performance on Wednesday 20th December.



Santa Dash!

On Thursday all children in Year 1 and Year 2 will take part in a Santa Dash, run by our PE coach, Rich. Children who do not normally have PE on this day do not need to wear their PE kits, but **do need to wear shoes that they can run in.**

Christmas Jumper Day - Save the Children

Children are invited to come to school in their Christmas jumpers on Thursday 7th December, for 'Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day'. This day is about more than wearing a Christmas jumper; we will be helping children who face serious issues like war, hunger and poverty. If you are able to, we are asking for donations of whatever you can manage on this day, which can be made at our Just-Giving page: <https://christmas.savethechildren.org.uk/fundraising/CJD230001447>



Artist Visit!

'Everyone is an artist!' is our theme for our learning after Christmas. Each year group studies different artistic skills, techniques and artists during the half term. To launch this unit of work, we are really excited to welcome James Brunt, a local artist, to school. During his visit, he will be working with all our children to produce a whole-school piece of natural art, which families will be able to see at the end of the day. We are asking for contributions of £2.50 per child for this visit, which can be made via ParentPay.

You can find out more about James by visiting his website: <https://www.jamesbruntartist.co.uk/>

Below are some images of his artwork. We can't wait to see what we make together!



Message from The Reading Agency: 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 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!

MILK ORDERS FOR AFTER CHRISTMAS

Once children reach the age of 5, they are no longer entitled to free school milk unless they receive income-related free school meals (whilst all infant aged children are entitled to Universal Free School Meals, only children eligible for income-related free school meals are able to claim free milk).

If you think your child may be entitled to income-related free school meals but are not currently in receipt of them, please go to <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schools-childcare/school-meals>

Applying is easy, but there are lots of benefits such as food vouchers over holidays etc.!

For children who are already 5 - Please go to ParentPay from tomorrow (Tuesday) to make payment.

Children who will become 5 during the Spring term (January to Easter) - you will have the opportunity to pay a proportional amount on ParentPay from tomorrow if your child wants milk after their 5th birthday.

Children who are not 5 until after Easter - you don't need to do anything: your child will continue to receive their free milk.

Children who are entitled to income-related free school meals - you don't need to do anything: your child will continue to receive their free milk.

PAYMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER, AFTER WHICH IT WILL BE TOO LATE.

We have to place our order with the dairy by then, and cannot change it until after the Spring term has started.

If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs Tatham in the School Office on 0114 2482360.

Diary Dates

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

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



A new device or game console may be on lots of letters to Father Christmas this year. It is important to make sure that devices and consoles are set up safely for children to use to create a fun and safe experience.

Visit the website below for parent control 'how-to' guides for a huge variety of devices and consoles.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/>



Useful websites:
www.saferinternet.org.uk
www.internetmatters.org
www.thinkuknow.co.uk
www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety