



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 24th January 2022

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 3pm Disney Song and Dance Club	Y2 Big PE Day 3pm Football Club	
And Next Week ?	F2 Big PE Day		Y1 Big PE Day 3pm Disney Song and Dance Club	Y2 Big PE Day 3pm Football Club	



Attendance for the week ending 21st January 2022:

Class	Attendance (%)
Mrs Jordan	95.2
Mrs Hibberd	89.8
Miss Dale	83.8
Mrs Bettinson/Mrs Briggs	93.3
Miss Hughes/ Mrs Hipkin	94.5
Mrs Timmons	89.5

Overall attendance for the week was 91.2%

We have 2 vacancies on our Governing Board.

See the back of this newsletter for more information.

Request for trousers

If your child is quickly outgrowing their uniform, we would be grateful for donations of used trousers to fit our older children as we are running very short of spare trousers of this size!



Nursery News

If your child started in nursery in 2021 and you have not yet booked a telephone meeting appointment for either 1st or 3rd February, you can still do so. You should have received the booking links already. If not, please have a word with Jenette.

Telephone meetings will be arranged later in the year for parents/carers of children who started nursery this month. NB— Parents' Evenings for children of school age will also be scheduled again next half term.

School improvements

As shared in our newsletter last week, we are excited that our old office building (the pale grey building to the left of the main school building which houses the school offices, main entrance, children's toilets, Learning Den/ intervention room and staffroom etc.) has recently been accepted as a new building project. Consequently this section of our premises will soon be replaced by Sheffield City Council. Some building projects are not able to take place due to budget constraints, and, therefore, we are delighted that ours is going ahead as we believe this will really improve our school. The scheme includes a newly positioned entrance for visitors/parents and, after the 16 week expected build time, we will look forward to being able to welcome you in!

The first of the units arrived on site before school this morning ready for the project to officially start on 7th February. These units will be used to store temporarily the furniture from the offices until our new building is ready at the end of May. Staff have started to pack this section of the building today, and the children have been very excited to see the progress so far as they know that this is in preparation for the build to take place.

The build will be carefully planned and managed by a senior Project Manager - Paul Dronfield - to ensure that everything runs smoothly and safely. For example, the actual demolition and clearance of the old office building will take place out of term time. The contractors will also try to minimise any unnecessary disruption to school during the build e.g. the storage containers arrived well before the children arrived on site this morning, and other deliveries will also happen out of school time wherever possible.

The classroom blocks and Y2 classrooms in the main school building will be unaffected during this project so teaching and learning will continue as normal, although there will be some amendments needed on a temporary basis such as:

- A section of the playground (nearest the Caretaker's house) will not be accessible from 7th February as this will be where the contractors are working. This area (in addition to the back of the building near the ramp to Nursery) will be fenced off for safety.
- We will need to access temporarily the main school building via the back door of school as the main entrance to school will no longer be in use. This will be demolished and repositioned when it is rebuilt.
- For the duration of the project there will be a temporary mobile school office, and a mobile block of toilets for Y2, sited on the top yard (near the sport yard/the entrance to Mrs Hibberd's class).
- Mrs Hibberd's Y2 class will enter/exit their classroom as normal.
- From 7th February, Mrs Jordan's Y2 class will use the back door to enter school each morning (NB parents/carers - please walk your children to the back door each morning to say good morning as you handover to Mrs Jordan). At home time from 7th Feb, we will also ask parents/carers collecting children in Mrs Jordan's class to wait in an allocated section of the playground and Mrs Jordan/Mrs Hunter will bring the children to the gate at the side of the main building to dismiss the children to you. The waiting area at home time will be the area of playground behind Mrs Hibberd's classroom.
- Apart from the temporary location of the Y2 toilets, the disruption to our Y2 children should be minimal as the main school building is remaining intact (it is the extension that adjoins this building that is being replaced).

As we said in the last newsletter, we are thrilled that this project is happening as we believe that your children deserve the best school environment, and are confident that this will make a real difference to our school. We cannot wait to have a lovely new school entrance, meeting rooms and, last but by no means least, brand new toilets for the children to use (...the children are most excited about this part of the build!).

Free Food Vouchers For February Half Term 2022

Sheffield City Council has confirmed plans to provide food vouchers for 30,500 children and young people across the city for the February half term holiday. It recognises that many families continue to face financial difficulties because of the pandemic, changes to Universal Credit, and rising costs for food and energy.

A £15 food voucher will be sent to the following groups to help them over the 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)

The Council has chosen to continue to use Edenred as the supplier of the vouchers as schools and parents/carers are familiar with the two-step process involved in downloading the vouchers.

The council aims to have the voucher letters sent out to parents by second class post, and eligible families will receive them **w/c Monday 31st January**. The letter will include the website link for Edenred and clear instructions on how to download the voucher. You can get in touch with school in the first instance if you need help with downloading or printing your vouchers and will also be sent the details of Edenred in case you need support downloading/redeeming etc. out of term time.

Any child/young person that becomes eligible for a food voucher between **21th January–13th February** will be sent a voucher letter **w/c 20th February**.

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.
- Parents/Carers are able to download their vouchers for more than one supermarket. For example, £10 for Aldi and £5 for Asda.
- The downloaded E-Gift Card/Voucher will arrive by email within 24 hours. If you cannot find this, please check the Junk/Spam folder.

Please note that 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.

Where can families get further help?

- The FSM Voucher helpline will be available on 0114 2734567, option 4, option 3, 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 telephone 0333 400 5932
- The Council has produced a short 'How to...' video for parents - <https://youtu.be/14l2yCc0nNo>

Please note: If any parent/carer is facing financial hardship, there is free advice and support available at

www.citizensadvice.org.uk or call on 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

Updated Covid-19 guidance

We still have a small number of cases of Covid-19 in all year groups at the present time. Although the NHS/Test and Trace are now responsible for identifying and contacting 'contacts' instead of schools, as a school we will continue to follow and share the most up to date guidance with you to keep everyone informed, and keep everyone as safe as we can.

Letters have been sent to classes where we have more than an isolated case so parents/carers can be more vigilant. The letters are based on a format sent to us by Sheffield City Council and include all the relevant advice. Should cases increase in a specific class and further actions be advised, such as daily testing at home, we will contact parents/carers directly.

I know many families are testing regularly at home, as are staff, to help to keep everyone as safe as possible, and we thank you for your support.

Update—daily LFD testing for contacts

Adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result. Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
- all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine

Children under 5 years who are identified as close contacts are exempt from self isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts. They are advised to take a PCR test if the positive case is in their household.

Reminder on the temporary suspension of confirmatory PCR tests in education and childcare settings

As a reminder, people are only asked to take a follow up PCR test after a positive LFD test if they:

- wish to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment;
- have been advised to take a PCR test because they are in a clinically vulnerable group;
- have been advised to do so as part of a research or surveillance programme;
- have received a positive day 2 LFD after arriving into the UK.

Please note that, if anyone has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, they are still strongly advised to take a PCR test (taken at a test centre/where the results processed at a laboratory), not an LFD test (home test).

The self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

People who are self-isolating with COVID-19 have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6, and do not have a temperature.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace.

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Further information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19 is available at https://www.gov.uk/government/news/self-isolation-for-those-with-covid-19-can-end-after-five-full-days-following-two-negative-lfd-tests?utm_source=14%20January%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Governor Vacancies

Our school Governing Board is made up of Governors from all walks of life. Many come to us through a variety of routes and with a range of different backgrounds, skills and experiences, but they are all volunteers who work together for the benefit of the school and are the link between the school and the community it serves.

We are currently looking for **two** new Parent Governors or **one** Parent Governor and **one** Co-Opted Governor.

Parent Governor – An individual who has a child of nursery/school age and is elected by the parent body to serve as a governor. They are usually parents who have a child on role at the school, but it is not a legal requirement. It is possible to be a parent governor because you have a child of legal school age, but not attending the school at which you govern.

Co-opted Governor – This is an individual from the community who has the skills and experience which the Governing Board require. This could be individuals from local businesses, nurseries, childminders and includes extended family members such as grandparents or carers.

This is an exciting opportunity for a member of our school community to become actively involved in our school. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who has:

- an interest in the performance of the school
- a desire to contribute to and represent the community
- the ability to look at issues objectively
- the confidence to ask questions and join in debate
- a willingness to listen and make informed judgements
- the ability to work well with others
- time to spare
- a child or children currently attending the Nursery or School.

More details are contained in the attached advert for these vacancies (overleaf). If you are interested, please send a brief description of yourself and why you would like to join the Governing Board, and return this to Chair of Governors Liz Booth, chair@halfway-inf.sheffield.sch.uk by this **Friday - 28th January**.

Governor Vacancies Advertisement

What are we looking for?

Our school Governing Board is made up of Governors with a range of different backgrounds, skills and experiences. They are all volunteers who work together for the benefit of the School and are the link between the School and the local community.

We are currently looking for **two** new Parent Governors or **one** Parent Governor and **one** Co-Opted Governor.



Parent Governor – An individual who has a child of nursery/school age and is elected by the parent body to serve as a governor. They are usually parents who have a child on role at the school, but it is not a legal requirement. It is possible to be a parent governor because you have a child of legal school age, but not attending the school at which you govern.



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- a desire to contribute to and represent the community
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- a willingness to listen and make informed judgements
- the ability to work well with others
- time to spare
- a child or children currently attending the Nursery or School

If you match the above description, you may be well suited to becoming a Governor at Halfway Nursery Infant School. Everyone has something to offer, and we want people from as many backgrounds and with as wide a range of interests as possible.

What can we offer?

- The opportunity to work with our team of governors and staff in enhancing our School
- The pleasure of helping children reach their potential
- A sense of achievement in making a difference to our School
- A chance to develop skills in strategic management
- A comprehensive induction programme
- Access to further training to help build on existing skills or to develop new ones

What is the Governing Board's Role?

The Governing Board of our school has 3 aims

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

What are our expectations?

- To attend and contribute to half-termly meetings of the full Governing Board (6 in total, typically on a Thursday evening from 4.30-6.30)
- To monitor a subject link area within the school, e.g. Mathematics, English, Special Educational Needs, Early Years, etc., and meet with the staff subject leader on a minimum of a termly basis, reporting on each visit to the Governing Board
- To visit the school formally for monitoring purposes as directed by the Governing Board
- When required, to sit on any committee or working groups and attend all associated meetings
- To visit the school informally on occasion
- To commit to attend training courses (these can often be completed online)
- To comply with the expectations set out in our Code of Conduct

Contact us!

If you are interested, please send a **brief description of yourself and why you would like to join the Governing Board**, and return this to Chair of Governors Liz Booth chair@halfway-inf.sheffield.sch.uk by **Friday 28th January**.

Depending on the number of applications there may be an election process, which will be advised in due course.

You may find some of these links useful in explaining the role of school governor:

Sheffield City Council: <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/schools-childcare/school-governors>

National Governance Association: <https://www.nga.org.uk/Governance-Recruitment/Be-a-school-governor-or-trustee.aspx>

Our school website: <https://www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org/meet-our-governors>

Fear-Less Triple P programme for parents/carers

The Sheffield Parent Hub is offering a seminar for parents of children (aged 6-16) who would like to get some tips on anxiety management for their family.

The seminar aims to provide support on helping your children learn to manage anxiety. Practitioners will introduce parents to some information about anxiety and provide positive parenting strategies that support the development and behaviour of children with anxiety.

Further information is shown below. Places can be booked at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/sheffield-parent-hub-17631456258>



Fear-Less Triple P

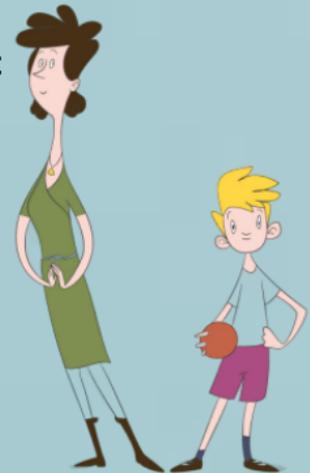
Seminar for parents of children (aged 6-16) who'd like to get some tips on anxiety management for their family.

Helping your children learn to manage anxiety.

Practitioners introduce parents to some information about anxiety and provide positive parenting strategies that support the development and behaviour of children with anxiety.

The topics covered include:

- Understanding how anxiety works.
- Becoming the best possible model of anxiety management for all their children.
- Becoming effective emotion coaches.
- Understanding and teaching the value of flexible thinking.
- Managing their children's anxiety effectively.
- Using constructive coping



Book now via Eventbrite:
<http://bit.ly/sheffparenthub>



Sheffield 
parent
hub for every family