



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 29th January 2024

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.



Attendance figures for week ending 26th January

Class	Attendance (%)
Miss Clewes	93.3
Mrs Hibberd	97.7
Mrs Thorpe	80.0
Miss White/Mrs Briggs	95.2
Miss Hughes/Mrs Bettinson	97.6
Mrs Timmons	94.5

Whole school attendance = 93.1%

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

Big PE days for this half term are as follows.

F2 = Tuesday
Year 1 = Friday
Year 2 = Thursday

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.

Learners of the week

Congratulations to last week's Learners of the Week!

	
Ava G and Amelia	Reuben and Ella
	
Alex and Harriet	Logan and Amelia
	
Millie and Ivy	Lily and Jodie

Halfway's art gallery!

To celebrate the culmination of all our art work this half term, we are inviting you to our art gallery! Each year group will take it in turns to showcase its art learning journey and final pieces in the last week. A separate letter about this was included in last week's newsletter. We hope you can join us!

Family of Schools walk to school

On Tuesday 30th January we will be joining with our local Westfield family of schools, to take part in a 'walk to school' day. The aim of the day is to encourage a healthy lifestyle. If you are unable to walk to school, why not 'park and stride', where children are walking at least 5 minutes from where you have parked the car? Each child that walks to school or 'parks and strides' will earn a special certificate.

Why not share a photo of your child taking part with your teacher on Tapestry?

Parking

Please be vigilant of other cars and keep your children close to you when you are walking in the car park or on the road in order to help avoid accidents. Also, please continue to be mindful of our neighbours by not blocking their driveways or double parking, to ensure that they can access their properties at all times.

Attendance and Punctuality

As you are aware, attendance is a big focus for the government this year, and one of our school targets is to increase our overall attendance to 94% or better. We have seen our attendance improve this year, which is great. Punctuality is also important, as children's lessons start at 9am, which is nearly always their phonics sessions. Children who are regularly late to school are, therefore, always missing the same lesson.

If you are late, in order to maximise learning time, we are asking that you take your child directly to class, rather than up to the office first. Children in year 2 will still need to enter the building via the office.

Request to change allocated sessions at Nursery

As you know, we are very busy in Nursery, with very few spaces available. We do like to give existing families the opportunity to change their sessions once per term if we can, but we have very little leeway to be able to offer this. However, should the opportunity arise, and you would like to apply for any additional sessions for your child after the Easter holidays, please complete by Wednesday 31st January the text form that was sent to Nursery families last week. After this date we will be allocating sessions to new starters.

As a reminder, our sessions are:

- Morning: 8.30am-11.30am
- Lunch: 11.30am-12.30pm
- Afternoon: 12.30pm-3.30pm

After-school Activity Clubs (not for Nursery)

You should have received a text form inviting you to apply for next half-term's after-school activity clubs. Please check your messages.

HIP Group New Year Raffle!

There are some fabulous prizes in HIP Group's New Year raffle! See the attached flyer for more details. Tickets are available from ParentPay: why not ask family and friends if they'd also like the chance to win?

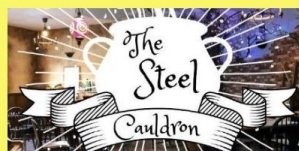


New Year Raffle 2024

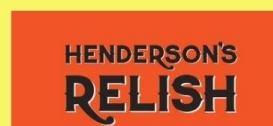
NEW PRIZES ADDED!

The HIP Group are running a New Year Raffle to fundraise for school equipment and activities which will enhance the children's learning experience. We have some fantastic prizes available!

If you and/or your friends and family would like to buy any tickets, please purchase tickets on **Parent Pay**.



- 1 x lamp from [ASDA](#)
- 1 x Slipper and Footcare Set from [ASDA](#)
- 2 x passes for [Bounce Sheffield](#)
- 2 x tickets for [Sheffield United](#)
 - 2 x ticket for [Jump Inc](#)
 - £20 voucher for [Tiny Town](#)
- 4 x tickets for [Sheffield Sharks](#)
 - Large Flask from [Costa](#)
 - £20 voucher for [Steel Cauldron](#)
- Multiple [Costa](#) vouchers for drinks and/or cake
- A month Junior Membership at [Eckington Leisure Centre](#)
 - 4 x play passes for [Play Mania](#) (worth £29.80)
 - Family pass at [Play Valley](#)
- 1 x day Holiday Camp admission at [Sheffield Gymnastics Academy](#)
- 3 x meal vouchers for [Nandos](#) (worth £25 each)
 - £20 voucher for [Beauty at Briarfield](#)
 - 12 x bottles of [Henderson's Relish](#)
 - £15 voucher for [Shala](#)
- Afternoon Tea for 2 at [The Courtyard](#)



FREE FOOD SUPPLEMENT VOUCHERS FOR FEBRUARY HALF-TERM HOLIDAYS

Below are the plans to provide food supplement vouchers for 32,000 children and young people across the city for the half-term holidays.

The Government Household Support Grant aims to assist with rising food and energy costs. Sheffield City Council recognises that many families continue to face financial difficulties because of the pandemic, changes to Universal Credit, and rising costs for food and energy.

Please note that the funding that we receive for these food vouchers has not been confirmed beyond March 2024, meaning that these February half-term 2024 vouchers are expected to be the last issue.

A £15 food supplement voucher will be sent to the following groups to help over the holidays:

Families who claim income-based Free School Meals (FSM).

Families who get income-assessed Early Years Support (2–4-Year-Olds).

Young people leaving their care setting (Care Leavers).

The Plan

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

· The voucher letters should arrive with parents by w/c 5 February. The letter will include the website link for Edenred and clear instructions on how to download the voucher, and we are asking parents to contact their school/establishment in the first instance if they need help with downloading or printing their vouchers. We are also providing them with the contact details for Edenred.

The Process

· As before, parents/carers need to go to the following website to redeem their vouchers - www.selectyourcompliment.co.uk/grocery

· Enter their unique 16-digit e-Code and select their chosen supermarket. Edenred give them a choice of 11 supermarkets: Aldi, Asda, B&M, Company Shop, Farmfoods, Iceland McColl's, M&S, Tesco, Sainsbury's and Waitrose.

· Parents/carers can 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 they cannot find this, they should check their Junk/Spam folder.

Please note that codes need to be activated within 3 months of the date of issue (5 February) or they will be cancelled automatically. Once vouchers have been redeemed on the Edenred website they will be valid for 12 months.

Where can you 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.

You can also contact Edenred directly with an enquiry about an eCode or voucher at freeschoolmealsparentscarers@edenred.com or telephone 0333 400 5932.

If a parent is facing financial hardship, there is free advice and support available at www.citizensadvice.org.uk or they can call on 0808 278 7820.

Additional support can also be found via Sheffield City Council's Community Support Helpline on 0114 273 4567 or at www.sheffield.gov.uk/costofliving



Balancing screen time

internetmatters.org

Top tips to support children 5-7 (Key stage 1)

As screens become a bigger part of young children's lives at home and at school, it's important to put balance and purpose behind screen time to help them develop key skills and benefit from their screen use. Find tips and advice to help them do just that.



How are children using screens?



Source: Ofcom Children and Parents Media use and attitudes report 2018

What do parents say about screen time?

Screens are good for creativity

Nearly 7 out of 10 parents believe that using devices gives children another way of being creative for example a child who enjoys dancing, sharing a new routine online with family and friends.

Screens can displace family and homework time

Even at this relatively young age, almost 3 out of every 10 parents say screen time means they have to fight for their child's attention and over a quarter (26%) say it has an impact on completing homework.

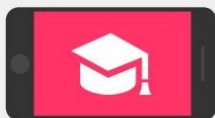
Source: Internet Matters Lookboth ways report

Useful websites:

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



What are the benefits and challenges of screen use?

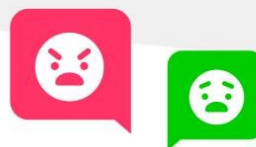


Screen time benefits

- Screen use provides a range of opportunities for creativity and learning – **70% of parents strongly agree that using devices is essential** for their child's development
Source: [Internet Matters Look both ways report](#).
- Screens can be a great tool to allow children to **maintain relationships** with family and friends.
- **Screens can help ease the financial burden** when looking to entertain children.

Screen time challenges

- Young children might stumble **across inappropriate content** that may have a negative impact on their digital wellbeing.
- Passive screen time **could have a physical effect on their development** (i.e. eyes, brain), sleep cycle and behaviour.
- Younger children **may not understand the concept of what the internet is** and how it works so could find it hard to differentiate between what is real and what is fake.



5 top tips to balance screen time

1 Set digital rules together

Agree digital boundaries together with your child to get them involved in the process and build up their understanding of why it's beneficial for them to stick to them.

Choosing device free zones in the home, keeping phones out of the bedroom at night and using free tools to turn devices on and off at different times of the day are just some ways to help children strike a healthy balance between activities on and offline.

Also, it's a good idea to encourage them to take a break every 30 minutes and use screens in short bursts. Experts recommend turning screens off an hour before bedtime to give children time to wind down.



2 Stay engaged in their screen use

Get engaged and stay engaged in their digital life as they grow. The more you get involved and understand the things your children do online, the easier it is to gain their respect and influence what they do in their digital world.

Ensure they have a healthy mix of screen activities that encourage creativity, learning & education, connecting with family & friends, as well as using devices for downtime.

3 Discuss online risks and strategies to tackle them

Take time to **help them understand the risks and benefits of using the internet**, whether it be discussing what steps to take if they see something that upsets them or guiding them towards apps and platforms that will help them explore their passions and enhance their skills.

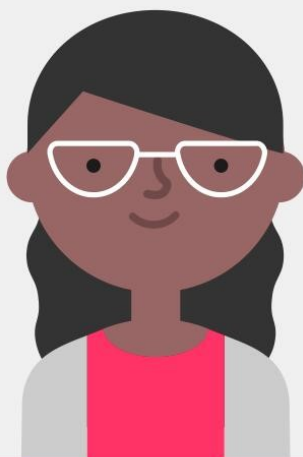
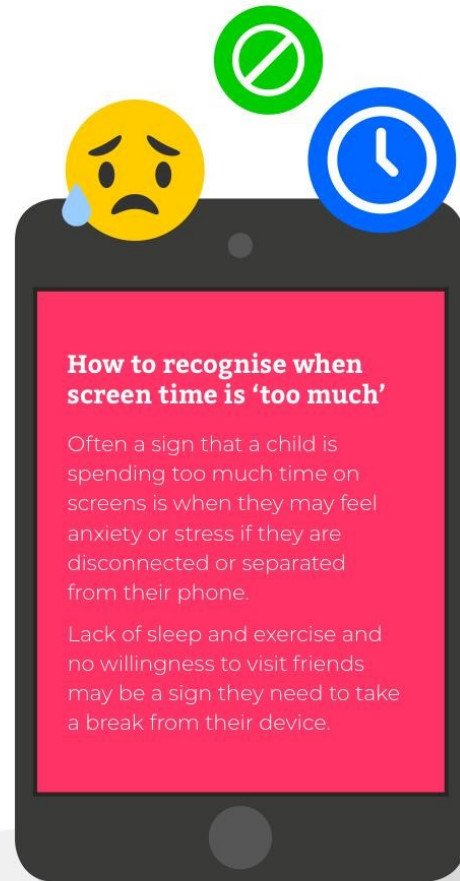


4 Set a good example with your own screen use

Children will tend to model their behaviour on you, so if you encourage them to take breaks when on screens or leave phones out of the bedroom at night, they will follow your lead.

5 Use tech tools to manage their time & access to media

Whatever device your child uses, be sure to make use of free and premium tools available to manage their access to age-appropriate content and review the time they spend on specific online activities.



The truth about screen time

Not all screen time is created equal so it's important to encourage children to have a healthy balance between passive screen time (i.e watching YouTube) and interactive screen time (i.e. creating content or playing games online).

There is no safe level of screen time but it doesn't mean that all screen time is harmful. Lack of evidence has meant that experts have found it hard to recommend a cut-off for children screen time overall.

One size does not fit all when it comes to screen time – it's more about getting it right for your families needs.

Visit internetmatters.org/screentime for more advice

InternetMatters internetmatters @im_org

internet
matters.org

50

things to do

before you're
five

Fifty low- or no-cost activities for families, in a **FREE** app

Download the app!



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