



Weekly Family Newsletter

Wednesday 6th September 2023

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.



Attendance figures for each class will appear here each week.

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.

Please remember:

As summer finally seems to have arrived this week—if somewhat belatedly—please remember that every day your child needs to bring:

- * A **sun hat**
- * A bottle filled with **fresh water**
- * A **rain jacket** (as this is England!)

Please also:

- * Dress your child in **clothes that cover and protect the skin AND** to apply **sunscreen** before school

Welcome Back

Welcome back to school! We are excited to be back, and are really looking forward to working with everyone who is a part of Halfway Nursery Infant School. We particularly welcome our new pupils and their families who are joining us this year.

As the year starts, we also need to say good bye to some members of staff: **Mrs Hipkin, Jenette Rawson and Jane Whiteley.**

Mrs Hipkin has spent many years working with us as a class teacher. We would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication to the school during her time with us, and wish her all the best for the future as she moves on to other opportunities.

Jane has worked at our school for many years, in particular working with our youngest children in nursery and those who use Superkids. We would like to thank her for her commitment to the school over the years and wish her the best of luck as she moves on.

Jenette has worked for many years at school, running nursery and the wraparound care provision. We know that many of our families and children have a great relationship with her and will miss her. She leaves us for a new job opportunity, and we would like to thank her for her dedication and commitment to the school and wish her the best of luck.

Changes to nursery and wrap around care

As Jenette leaves us, there will be some changes to how nursery, breakfast club and Superkids after school club are run.

Nursery

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.

Please ensure that you are on time for your nursery sessions, including collection. If you are late for your session or collecting early, please ring the doorbell. Please be patient waiting for the nursery staff to answer as they are busy working with the children. In some cases (e.g. if they are outside) they may not hear the bell—at these times, please call the school office which will be able to help.

Breakfast club and Superkids

You can continue to book your child's place for breakfast and after school club via the designated Superkids email address: **superkids@halfway-inf.sheffield.sch.uk**

If you need to make any changes to your booking, please make sure this is done before 12pm on the day of the change. Should you need to change anything after this time, then please call the school office to ensure school gets the correct information.

Please be aware that Superkids is very busy, and full on some days, and so early booking is often necessary to secure your child a place.

RAAC

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach, and as a result areas in affected spaces will be vacated.

We wanted to inform you that we are not affected by this decision as we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings and, therefore, they will continue to function as normal. We understand that parents may want to understand more about the support to educational settings to manage RAAC safely. You can read more through the article published by the DfE on the Education Hub (<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/09/04/new-guidance-on-raac-in-education-settings/>).

Attendance

Being at school on time everyday is crucial for children's education. Children start learning promptly at 9am and, with the structure of our timetables, this is when our phonics lessons are taught.

If your child is ill and unable to come to school please let us know before 10am each day by calling the school office (this includes children in nursery). Outside of office times there is an option to leave a message. If you are unsure if your child is well enough to attend school you can follow the guidance produced by the NHS "Is my child too ill for school?". This can be viewed online at <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

PE days

Children's days for Big PE this year are as follows:

F2 = Tuesday

Year 1 = Friday

Year 2 = Thursday

On these days please send your child to school dressed in their PE kit. Any jewellery should be removed and long hair tied up.

School lunches

As a school we work with Taylor Shaw to provide delicious and healthy hot meals, as well as jacket potatoes and sandwiches, for our children. All our children in F2, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to Universal Free School Meals. Should you wish to send your child with a packed lunch, please ensure that it is healthy and does not contain foods in which there are any traces of nuts. Also, please ensure that any small round fruits (e.g. grapes, blueberries, cherry tomatoes) are cut in half lengthways to help prevent choking.