



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 7th February 2022

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
What's Happening this Week?	F2 Big PE Day Office block rebuild project starts Children's Mental Health Week	Safer Internet Day	Y1 Big PE Day 3pm Disney Song and Dance Club	Y2 Big PE Day 3pm Football Club	School breaks up for half term
And Next Week ?	School closed—half term holiday	School closed—half term holiday	School closed—half term holiday	School closed—half term holiday	School closed—half term holiday



Attendance for the week ending 4th February 2022:

Class	Attendance (%)
Mrs Jordan	70.6
Mrs Hibberd	95.0
Miss Dale	90.0
Mrs Bettinson/Mrs Briggs	96.2
Miss Hughes/ Mrs Hipkin	97.2
Mrs Timmons	92.4

Overall attendance for the week was 90.4%

Voting for new parent/carers governors

On the next page you will find information on the 4 applicants for the parent/carers vacancies on the Governing Board, and how to register your votes.

Half term

Just a quick reminder that we break up for half term this Friday, 11th February. **School returns on Tuesday 22nd February** due to a training day on Mon 21st (NB—no staff will be on site on Mon 21st and, therefore, the school office will also reopen on 22nd).



Nursery News

- Could you please check your child's pockets and bag/book bags to make sure they are not bringing food/snacks into nursery —we have to be extremely careful that no food containing nuts is brought into our setting, and we thank you for your support.
- Please could we also ask that parents/carers to encourage children to practise putting on coats and doing up the zips.

Vote for new parent/carers governors

We are delighted that we have 4 applications for vacancies for parents/carers on the school's Governing Board, and we are therefore asking parents/carers to read through the following information and vote online for the applicants of your choice. Thank you so much to everyone who has registered their interest and offered their time and commitment to one of these posts.

PARENT GOVERNOR APPLICANTS

Laura Eastwood

I am a parent of a child currently at HNIS and, with a further child hopefully starting in September, I really value the contribution that the school makes to our local community and the lives of our children. I have worked within professional services roles in Higher Education for the majority of my career and see on a daily basis the positive impact that education and learning has on the lives of young people. The first years at school provide the foundation for children to develop a passion for learning and go on and achieve, and, as a parent of a child currently in Y2 at Halfway, I am aware of the hard work and dedication that goes into helping the children reach their full potential and enjoy learning. The school governor post is an opportunity for me to contribute towards that and give back to the school and the school community. I feel that my skills and experience would transfer well into the role of governor as in my day to day role I work as a Department Manager, working directly with senior leaders in the university departments so have experience in an education environment. A lot of my role involves problem solving and I often work with multiple teams to find solutions and ensure students have a good experience. This means that my ability to really listen and communicate with a range of different people is really important and would be a valuable skill in this role.

Outside of my professional role I have been a committee member and officer for a branch of the WI, taking on the role of Secretary as well as organising events and contributing to meetings and maintaining oversight of the group finances. The WI is a registered charity so has regulations attached to this and specified ways of working that I had to learn and adapt to. This was a voluntary role that I really enjoyed and again learnt skills that I feel would be transferable. I appreciate the amount of time and effort that is required by the parent governor role and am confident that given the opportunity I could fully commit to the post and contribute to the continued success of the school.

Mey Brookes

My name is Mey, and I am currently a Stay-at-Home Mother. My son began his journey at Halfway Nursery Infant School in F1 and transitioned into F2 in September.

I would like to join the governing board because I have a genuine interest in the performance of this school and in the welfare of all the children who attend. I believe all children should have a safe and secure environment to learn in and have the opportunity to reach their full potential. Promoting children's mental health and wellbeing is also particularly important to me; empowering mindsets, helping them to embrace their individuality and helping them to feel and understand that they are valued, positive change-makers in their communities.

Before becoming a Stay-at-Home Mother, I had many valuable years of experience within administration and Learning and Development. I also hold a BA (Hons) in Primary Education. I have been fully involved in training and teaching all ages and I have been a mentor for new employees. I have created, delivered, and facilitated induction and staff development programmes. I have logged and analysed data from reports and identified where improvements can be made. I have also managed new starters and organised volunteering days. I really enjoyed volunteering for the school at Christmas and would love to volunteer more to help in any way I can to make a difference. I am a caring person, and I can make choices and decisions whilst keeping in mind how that decision would impact others and the consequences it may have. I am an active listener with an eye for detail who works well with others as well as being able to work proactively on my own initiative.

If appointed, I will do all that I can to be a successful Parent Governor that makes effective contributions which will help the school to maintain its high standards. I have bundles of energy, enthusiasm, a willingness to get involved, time to invest and a real desire to help provide children with the best possible education. I am committed, dedicated, and care about the long-term success of all the children, as well as the school itself. I too believe that children should be at the centre of their education and at the heart of their lifelong learning. I would be honoured to bring a parental perspective to the governing board of this outstanding school and give something back to my local community. Thank you for your time.

MORE APPLICANTS ON NEXT PAGE.....

Evie Harman-Thomas

I have a keen interest in the performance of the school as my two children attend the school in F2 and nursery respectively. I would love to be able to participate proactively in any way I can to ensure the best education for young children in our community. I have a 2:1 degree in Psychology from The University of Leeds and am now working as a part-time security support officer for the University of Sheffield. My role is extremely varied working day and night shifts with a range of people including University academics, support staff and students, as well as independent contractors. The job involves being highly organised and motivated to work effectively within my team, often delegating jobs as they arise depending on our skill sets. This requires effective listening to those around me to make informed decisions.

Recently, I have taken a mental health first aid course, learning the importance of providing not only physical first aid but mental first aid too, an essential skill when working so closely with vulnerable young people. My current job role has seen my confidence rise, especially when dealing with confrontational situations ensuring they are dealt with and resolved calmly. In addition to being a mother, I do have lots of experience working with young people. Whilst studying for my A-Levels I volunteered at my local primary school as a classroom assistant and later worked for a year in an early-year nursery with children from 3 months to 4 years old. My mother has worked as a teacher for 25 years, so I understand the importance, but also the difficulties which can arise from the job and want to use the position on the Governing board to create a better learning environment for everyone at the school. With my current part-time role and children now in school for more hours, I have plenty of time available to contribute positively to this role if given the opportunity. Thank you for considering my application.

Catherine Best

My name is Catherine, but I'm known as Cat. My family and I moved to Halfway at the beginning of 2021, so we are reasonably new to the area having lived in Hillsborough for 10 years previously. My husband and I have three daughters - the eldest is 16 and attends Notre Dame High School, I have a 5 year old in Elmers class in F2 and the youngest is 2 and will be joining the nursery next year.

I am an experienced English Teacher and have over 12 years' experience in education. I was formerly a Head of Year prior to my current role. I now work in a secure children's home teaching the most vulnerable young people in our community. I have a passion for teaching and learning and I am keen to be involved in the wider community life of the Halfway area, so I thought that my experience would help with becoming a parent governor for the school. I am confident in representing other peoples' ideas and have time to give to the role.

I currently work part time (Mon to Wed) which means that I can afford the time to become a parent governor.

To register your vote go to

<https://schoolwork.space/T/ECO67w3A3cCU6wh10T>

The voting will close on Friday 25th February.

Building work

As you will have seen on the yard, the contractors have moved in today and have been very busy setting up their site.

After their cabins were delivered this morning, they erected high level fencing around the perimeter of their working area so they could start and get to work on the office block safely.

The temporary Y2 toilets and office unit now are connected to the services too so we have everything we need for the duration of the build.

Thank you to the parents/carers in Mrs Jordan's class for your support dropping off and collecting children from the back door of school today—this went well and will continue until the new block is completed in the Summer Term. Well done to the children too for being so sensible and adapting so quickly to this!

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 8th February we will be celebrating Safer Internet Day in school. The theme this year is exploring respect and relationships online and we will be finding out about being kind, both on and offline by completing assemblies and activities within our class. There are also a number of activities for parents and carers to access from home. If you would like to find out more about Safer Internet Day this year please follow these links -

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2022/advice-for-parents-and-carers>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2022/top-tips-for-under-11s>



Virtual Art Exhibition - Friday 11th May

As part of our Art and Design work within our current topic - 'Imagination and Innovation' - each class is studying a famous artist and is creating artwork in their style. The children would like to share their masterpieces with you and one another, and therefore will be putting together a short virtual art exhibition to explain what they have created, how they created it, and to show you the artwork that inspired them. The exhibition slideshows will be loaded onto Tapestry on Friday morning (Feb 11th) so the classes can visit the exhibitions across school, and so you can virtually visit from home too! We hope you enjoy the tour!

Staffing

A few staffing updates and **CONGRATULATIONS** are in order within our staff team! We are pleased to share with you that Miss Hughes was successful in securing the role as our permanent (rather than Acting/temporary) Deputy Head, and that Miss Dale has also secured a permanent contract as a member of teaching staff at our school. Super news for our families!

More good news follows too as Mr and Mrs Bettinson are also expecting a baby! Baby Bettinson is due in July and Mrs Bettinson is looking forward to spending the majority of the remaining academic year with her current class.

I'm sure you will join me in sending very best wishes and many congratulations to all!

1-Minute Maths

To support KS 1 maths learning at home White Rose Maths has designed “1 Minute Maths”.

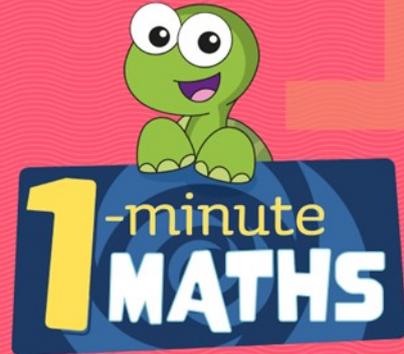
IT'S FREE to use!!!!

Visit the White Rose Maths website at

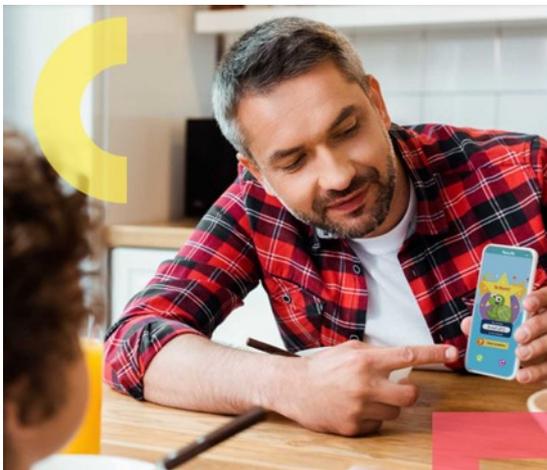
<https://whiterosemaths.com/1-minute-maths#download>

Check out these 7 top reasons for using 1-Minute Maths!

1. Excellent practice — and no distractions.
2. A clear, intuitive process that children pick up straight away.
3. No login or internet access needed. Just download and play.
4. Enjoyable and motivating... How many can they get correct in one minute?
5. Helpful hints match those used in class.
6. Brilliant for building number fluency and confidence.
7. It's **FREE!**



Designed in-house for use both in class and at home, our new 1-Minute Maths app helps children build greater number confidence and fluency. It's all about targeted practice in engaging, one-minute chunks!



What's the app about?

This first version of the app is aimed at Key Stage 1 pupils (ie. age 5-6 years). Individual one-minute tasks focus on adding and subtracting — and on 'Subitising', the skill of instantly recognising the number of items in a group without counting. Multiplication and division will be added soon!

How do we use it?

Your child can choose any topic they want to try. They then answer a unique series of questions (so it's a different set of questions every time). If they're struggling with a question, a 'Hint' button will give a helpful clue by showing the question in a different but familiar way.

When the one minute's up, they'll see a feedback screen telling them how they've done.



Download the 1-Minute Maths app

Free to download for teachers, parents and pupils

APPLE APP STORE

GOOGLE PLAY STORE

Children's Mental Health Week (7th to 13th February)

What is Children's Mental Health Week?

A children's mental health charity, Place2Be, has set up Children's Mental Health Week 2022 to highlight the importance of mental health for children and young people.

We all have mental health. Some people may have mental health problems. In fact, up to 1 in 4 will experience mental health problems at some time in their lives.

During Children's Mental Health Week this week, we will take some time to focus on mental health, encourage children to think of how they can best look after their own mental health, and also how they can support family/friends with their mental health.

Schools, youth groups, various organisations and individuals across the UK will be taking part, and you can get involved at home too if you would like to.

What is the theme for Children's Mental Health Week 2022?

This year, the theme for Children's Mental Health Week is 'Growing Together'. This is an opportunity for children to reflect on their growth so far and be proud of themselves for it, and also think about how they would like to grow/what they would like to achieve in the future. It is also a great opportunity for us to celebrate how they've grown in school!

We can also focus on ways that we can all grow together, through taking time to reflect on how we can support others with their growth. Children can think of ideas and ways to encourage their friends and family to grow along with them, and how they can all support each other with their goals.

Some activity ideas for 'Growing Together' -

- Children can draw a picture of how they've grown emotionally and personally over the last year.
- Write down their goals for the next year/draw pictures to represent them. They could record these on different coloured papers and put them in a jar that they can look at to keep motivated, or display them in their room.
- Talk as a family about mental health and ideas for looking after our wellbeing, including ways to support each other.
- Young people can often feel overwhelmed by their emotions because they experience several emotions at once. In school, we use stories such as the 'Colour Monster' (our F2 classes have just been learning about this story so they'll be able to tell you all about it!) to help them to recognise and name emotions. Helping children to recognise how they feel is a step to helping them to understand and regulate their feelings.

If you would like advice about supporting your child's mental health, the NHS website has information and 'top tips' for parents/carers on helping children to stay mentally healthy -

<https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/supporting-others/childrens-mental-health/>

Sheffield City Council is also offering a parent/carers session to support children with anxiety.

As always, please speak to a member of our school staff if you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing as we are also here to support you and your family wherever we can.

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.

If eligible, you should have received a letter which includes 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

THANK YOU

Halfway Nursery Infant School

for raising a fantastic

£338



**TOGETHER,
WE CAN**



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Have a lovely half term break next week,

Kind regards,

Paula Bestall