



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 11th December 2023

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.



Attendance figures for week ending 8th December.

Class	Attendance (%)
Miss Clewes	93.4
Mrs Hibberd	98.3
Mrs Thorpe	88.3
Miss White/Mrs Briggs	97.8
Miss Hughes/Mrs Bettinson	98.5
Mrs Timmons	99.0

Whole school attendance = 95.8%

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

Please note that next half term, PE days for Year 1 and Year 2 will switch (Year 1 = Friday, Year 2 = Thursday). F2 will remain on Tuesday.

Learners of the week

Congratulations to last week's Learners of the Week!

	
Isla and Audrey	Winnie and Indy
	
William and Isabella Br	Maddie and Tommy
	
Joey and Bella	Georgie and Olivia

Christmas!

We are now in full-Christmas swing! Please keep an eye on the newsletter, text reminders and diary dates as the next two weeks are very busy!

Performances

We are looking forward to getting you into the festive spirit this week as our Christmas performances begin! Nursery performances will take place in Nursery, please wait by the front door to be let in. F2, Year 1 and Year 2 performances will take place in the school hall. Please use the back door entrance into school, where a member of staff will let you in once the children are ready!

We know you will want to take videos and photographs to capture your child's performance, however, please be mindful of other people's privacy and do not post any pictures or videos that contain images of other children (without their parents permission) on social media.

We will continue to sell raffle tickets before and after our Christmas performances, as well as on ParentPay. The winners will be drawn after the second Year 2 performance on Wednesday 20th December.

Christmas Sports Fun!

Today children in F2 and Year 1 took part in a special Christmas Sports Fun activity, run by Sports Leaders from Westfield and Halfway Junior School, and had lots of festive fun!

Year 2 visit to Halfway Junior School

Today our Year 2 children visited Halfway Junior School to watch the dress rehearsal of the Year 3/4 Christmas Nativity. This was a great start to their transition, and they had a lovely time!

Year 2 Choir

On Tuesday, children in Year 2 will be bringing some festive cheer to the residents of Rose Cottage as they visit them to sing Christmas carols. The Year 2 choir will also be joining our friends from our local Westfield family of schools, as they meet to sing Christmas carols at Crystal Peaks on Wednesday. The performance will be outside the entrance to Bon Marche, starting at 6pm. Everyone is invited to come and watch us!

Father Christmas visit

This Friday, Father Christmas has pencilled in a visit to our school! All children will get to meet him during the day.

Christmas Jumper Day - Save the Children

Thank you to everyone who was able to donate to Save The Children for Christmas Jumper Day. We raised £116 for the charity, which will help make a difference to those children who will find Christmas difficult this year.



Artist Visit—reminder

'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!



Malcolm Lee

As some of you will be aware, Malcolm Lee sadly passed away recently. Malcolm was head teacher at our school for many years, from the 1990s until retiring in 2011, and was much loved and fondly remembered. Many of our staff worked with him and many of our parents were pupils whilst he was head teacher. We would like to honour his memory at our school and have started a collection towards this. If you would like to contribute to this, please bring any contributions to the school office.

MILK ORDERS FOR AFTER CHRISTMAS—reminder

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 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.

Our very first 'Secret Storyteller' event!

On Wednesday last week everyone had a lovely surprise at story time, a secret storyteller. The children did not know which grown-up from school would come to read them a story, or even what book they would bring.

- Mrs Hibberd visited nursery
- Miss Barker visited class 6- Elmers
- Mrs Tatham read with class 5- Gruffalo
- Miss Hughes visited class 4- Hungry caterpillars
- Miss Clewes read to class 3- Rainbow fish
- Mrs Bettinson visited class 2- The Crafty Chameleon's
- Mrs Briggs read to class 1 - The Enormous Crocodile's

Our stories this time were all about celebrating individuality and diversity. The stories are now on display in the link corridor in main school along with other books promoting individuality and diversity.

The children were really excited to have someone different come to read to them, and enjoyed trying to guess who it might be.

The staff and children had a fantastic time and cannot wait for the next Secret Storyteller session after Christmas.



Christmas Holiday Food Vouchers

The Council is providing a £30 food supplement voucher for children who are in receipt of income-based free school meals, families who receive income-assessed Early Years Support (2 to 4 year olds) and young people leaving their care setting (care leavers).

It will be issuing vouchers from week beginning 18 December. You will receive a letter automatically with details of how to access the food supplement voucher, so there is no need to apply for it yourself.

How to redeem your voucher

Go to the Edenred website and follow the instructions below:

- enter your eCode from the letter
- choose your supermarket
- enter the amount
- go to checkout and complete your order

The voucher will arrive by email within 24 hours. Check your inbox for your voucher email and download your voucher.

if you cannot find the voucher email, please check your junk/spam folder.

Codes need to be activated within 3 months of the issue date (18 December) or they will be cancelled automatically. Once vouchers have been claimed on the Edenred website they will be valid for 12 months.

If you have difficulty accessing the Edenred website, please contact the school for help in the first instance. You can also contact the Edenred helpline on 0333 444 5932 or, if you live in Sheffield, contact the Free School Meals team.

Please note that the funding that the Council receives for these food vouchers is currently only expected to continue until March 2024, meaning that the February 2024 half-term vouchers may be the last issue.

If you have a child attending a Sheffield school or maintained nursery, you may be entitled to free school meals if you receive any of these benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income related Employment Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit as long as you have a yearly household income of less than £16,190 (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) and do not get Working Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Sheffield Parent Hub—What's On Guide

You can access the updated Sheffield Parent Hub 'What's On Guide' at <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/social-care/positive-parenting>

Diary Dates

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

Date	Event
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