



Weekly Family Newsletter

Tuesday 22 February 2022

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
What's Happening this Week?			Y2 Big PE Day	Y1 Big PE Day	Deadline for parent/carer governor vote
And Next Week ?	F2 Big PE Day		Y2 Big PE Day	World Book Day Y1 Big PE Day	



Attendance for the week ending 11th February 2022:

Class	Attendance (%)
Mrs Jordan	92.0
Mrs Hibberd	92.9
Miss Dale	95.5
Mrs Bettinson/Mrs Briggs	94.2
Miss Hughes/ Mrs Hipkin	98.3
Mrs Timmons	95.9

Overall attendance for the week was 94.9%

Voting for new parent/carer governors

On the final pages of this newsletter you will find information on the four applicants for the parent/carer vacancies on the Governing Board, and how to register your votes.

Please vote if you have not done so already—you have until this Friday (25th) to do so!



Nursery News

We would be grateful for any donations of age appropriate unwanted story books and comics for our nursery.

Thank you :-)

Welcome back

We hope that you have enjoyed the half term break (even with the 3 storms and incessant rain!) and that you managed to spend some quality family time together. The children have told me all about wet and windy trips to the seaside, play centres visits, cinema trips and Lego Land adventures today, so it sounds like you have all been super busy!

Premises news

The building contractors have done an amazing job over half term (despite all the storms!) demolishing the old office and toilet block and clearing away the debris ready for the new build to start. See the progress so far...



There has been even more progress since this picture was taken and the children have loved seeing the block work start today! Our nursery children have a bird's eye view of the new building from their window in the creative area and have loved watching the progress so far—I think we have some budding project managers in the making!

World Book Day Thursday 3rd March 2022

This year's World Book Day theme is 'You Are a Reader'. We have decided to have a Pyjama day to celebrate.

Children can come to school wearing their PJs and bring their favourite story along with them (please make sure their book has their name clearly written inside). Children will be given time in class to share their stories with their friends and complete lots of reading and book themed activities throughout the day. This year we thought it would be nice to combine World Book Day with the Sheffield Children's Hospital Pyjama Day. If you are able, we would be grateful if you would make a donation to the Sheffield Children's Hospital Pyjama Day fundraiser. This is raising some funds to improve the experience of the many children and families who need to stay overnight at Sheffield Children's Hospital.

Please donate via <https://www.justgiving.com/wear-your-pyjamas-to-school-day>

May we please ask that children refrain from attending in 'onesies', all in ones or dressing up outfits as these can be difficult when it comes to toileting throughout the day.

In addition to our PJ day, we are also holding an 'Extreme Reading Challenge' for all children in school and nursery.

To enter, all children need to do is find somewhere new, fun and interesting to read and get someone to take a photograph of them reading there. Now be sure to think carefully and make sure the extreme reading location is not only interesting but also a safe place to read!

All entries should be uploaded to Tapestry by no later than 11am on Thursday 3rd March 2022 with the title Extreme Reading Challenge. We will share the photographs in class so the children can see all the creative places they found to read.

A winner from each class will be selected and will win a £5 gift voucher! In addition there will be an overall winner who will receive a £15 voucher! All prizes have been kindly funded by our Friends Group. We can't wait to see all your extreme reading photos!

Eat Them to Defeat Them



Our school is one of many across the UK taking part in the 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' programme.

The programme begins in the week commencing 28th February, starting with the much loved carrot, and then runs for 5 weeks.

There is a 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' guide for parents/carers which can be downloaded at <https://bit.ly/prepare-for-victory>.

After School Activity Clubs, Spring 2 (until Easter)

Parents/Carers of our Y1 and Y2 children will have received, or will be receiving, a text with a link to a form for booking after-school activity clubs this half-term. We are offering:

- Y1 Disney Song and Dance on Wednesdays
- Y2 Multiskills on Thursdays

All the details are on the forms, so please look out for the text messages for information and to request a place for your child. The closing date to apply is Sunday 27th February and places will be allocated on Monday 28th February - so look out for an allocation letter after then.

Prime Minister's announcement on the Living with COVID-19 plan

Yesterday, the Prime Minister set out the next phase of the government's COVID-19 response 'Living with COVID-19'.

Basic information on what this means for education and childcare settings is below.

Changes to testing in education and childcare settings

From Monday 21st February, the Government removed the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing (some exceptions apply to this —see government guidance for more information).

Changes to self-isolation and daily testing of close contacts

From Thursday 24th February, the Government will remove the legal requirement for people to self-isolate following a positive test, but adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.

We will therefore still request that children and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 take a PCR test and, should this be positive, isolate for at least 5 days and until they have received 2 negative LFD test results on consecutive days.

Should we receive further clarity and guidance about the actions schools should take should a pupil or member of staff have Covid after 24th Feb, we will share this with you.

Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice on COVID-19 vaccination for healthy 5 to 11 year olds

The NHS is currently offering vaccines to at-risk children and those who live with immunosuppressed people in this age group. Parents and guardians of at risk 5 to 11 year olds should wait for the NHS to contact them, with local NHS teams already contacting those who are eligible.

On Wednesday 16th February, the government accepted the advice from the independent JCVI to make a non-urgent offer of COVID-19 vaccines to all children aged 5 to 11 in England. The NHS will prepare to extend this non-urgent offer to all children during April so parents can choose if they want to take up the offer. The NHS will be in touch about this.

The DfE update to schools yesterday stated that children without underlying health conditions are believed to be 'at low risk of serious illness from COVID-19', and the priority remains for the NHS to offer vaccines and boosters to older age groups and vulnerable children, as well as to catch-up with other childhood immunisation programmes at this time.

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

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.

MORE APPLICANTS ON NEXT PAGE.....

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.

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.

To register your vote go to

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

The voting will close on Friday 25th February.