



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 18th December 2023

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.



Attendance figures for week ending 15th December.

Class	Attendance (%)
Miss Clewes	97.9
Mrs Hibberd	93.0
Mrs Thorpe	88.3
Miss White/Mrs Briggs	94.8
Miss Hughes/Mrs Bettinson	94.0
Mrs Timmons	95.0

Whole school attendance = 93.9%

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 - next half term

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!

	
Connor and Ida	Cooper and Harmony
	
Fanxi and Florence	Jessie & Briar
	
Zoe and Beatrice	Ferne and Harper

Reading books

Please return any school reading books that you may have at home this week. This will help us to restock ready for January. A big thank you to everyone for helping us to look after our books; this means that all our children are still able to enjoy full sets.

We are really pleased to share that some of the money we have raised over the Christmas period has meant that we are now able to buy the next set of reading books in the Little Wandle scheme. These fluency books will help support our readers in Year 2 as they move on from phonics learning, to focusing more on fluency and comprehension. These books are currently being categorised and should be ready to come home with children in the new year.

Malcolm Lee - reminder

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.

Christmas!

We really are on the final countdown now, with lots of festivities still to enjoy in school.

Performances

Last week was the start of our Christmas performances. Children in Nursery and F2 did a wonderful job of getting us in the Christmas spirit. If you came to watch them, we hope you enjoyed the performances.

This week is the turn of the Year 1s and Year 2s. All 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. Children are welcome to go home after their afternoon performance if someone has come to collect them. However, they will first need to return to class to get changed and collect their belongings.

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. If you buy your raffle tickets through ParentPay, you don't need a piece of paper: you have 'virtual' raffle tickets! All the virtual and paper tickets have an equal chance in the draw. We'll be in touch if you win!

Christmas Dinner

Christmas dinner day is on Wednesday. Children are welcome to wear Christmas jumpers on this day.

Christmas parties

Our Christmas parties are happening this week across school. On party day, children are invited to wear their party clothes or Christmas jumpers to school. Please make sure their clothing is suitable for outdoor play as the children will still be outside for breaks and lunch times. Children do not need to bring in anything for these parties.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time over the past few weeks to help us with our festive plans. Thank you as well to the following businesses who have donated gifts:

- Morrisons, Halfway - buns for the winter fair;
- Premier Shop, Westfield - sweets for the disco;
- Avia Landscaping and Property Services Ltd - donation of Elf for 'guess the elf's name';
- Playmania - donation of vouchers for prizes.

Superkids on Friday 22nd December

We are all looking forward to our Christmas holidays. As a way to help our staff in Superkids start theirs, we are asking that, if possible, children are collected from Superkids on Friday as early as you are able to. We understand that an early collection may not be possible for some of you, so do not worry; Superkids will still be open until our normal closing time of 6pm.

Millie Bright visit!

We are so excited to be welcoming Millie Bright, the women's football England captain, to school on Thursday for a special assembly for children in Year 1 and Year 2. Millie is going to be interviewed by our school councillors to find out more about her career and the work that goes into being a professional footballer. Each class will have a class photograph with Millie, which will be shared on Tapestry.

We hope that this visit will excite, but also inspire, our pupils to follow their dreams and have high aspirations, knowing that with hard work they can achieve anything.

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!



Land Art Competition

We are delighted to launch our land art competition ahead of our Artist Study topic next half term.

As you are aware, James Brunt will be spending the day in school with us on Thursday 11th January. James is an award winning artist and forest schools practitioner who uses foraged materials to create works of art in outdoor locations.

Now it's your turn to get involved! Create your own land art at home. This can be made indoors or outdoors using materials/resources of your choice.

See the examples below:



James will be judging the art competition on the day of his visit. A winner will be chosen from each year group, with exciting prizes to be won!

Please submit a photo of your entry to Tapestry with the title 'Land Art Competition' by **Wednesday 10th January at 15:00.**

Good luck and have fun!

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
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!

The 12 Online Safety Tips of Christmas

FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES



Christmas is almost upon us once again, and soon some lucky children will be excitedly tearing the wrapping off a new mobile phone, tablet or games console. For some of them, it will be the first time they've owned a device that connects them to the online world. Even for older children, a new device means new corners of the digital landscape to explore – and, unfortunately, new risks to be aware of.

We've put together our top tips so that you can guide your young ones in enjoying their new digital gifts safely and responsibly throughout the year to come. Merry Christmas!

- ### 1. ALWAYS SET A PASSWORD

If your child's new device has a password protection feature, use it! It'll help to keep their private information safe and will deny others access to their device without permission. Your children's passwords should be something memorable to them – but something which other people can't guess (it's also a good idea for parents to write it down in case it gets forgotten!).
- ### 2. SET UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS'

This really is an essential when your child gets a new device, so they're protected from the outset. Most phones, tablets and consoles allow you to customise their settings to determine which games your child can play, how they can communicate (and who with), what content they can access and so on. It will give you peace of mind that they can't inadvertently do something they shouldn't.
- ### 3. PAY ATTENTION TO AGE RATINGS

One of the first things children want to do with any new device is play games and explore apps. Before they download anything or install a new console game, check its age rating. Many popular games and apps have content that's not suitable for younger ages. The safest long-term solution is to adjust the device's settings so they can only download and use games and apps appropriate for their age.
- ### 4. KEEP NUMBERS AND DEVICES PRIVATE

Make sure your child understands that they should never share their phone number with someone they don't know or accept a friend request from them. They should also appreciate that it's a good idea to mainly keep their device out of sight, never lend it to a stranger, and never put it down somewhere that other people could steal it or take it to use without asking.
- ### 5. HAVE 'THE MONEY CONVERSATION'

Before your children start using their new device in earnest, talk to them about in-app purchases and other ways that money might be spent through their device. Once they understand, you might want to agree on a spending limit and reassure them that they can come to you if they're uncertain, or if they have made a purchase by accident.
- ### 6. DISCOURAGE DEVICE DEPENDENCY

Of course, children who've just got a new device will naturally want to spend as much time on it as possible. But whether they're zapping bad guys, watching videos or connecting with friends, it's easy for them to get attached very quickly. Gently remind them that having family time, going outdoors and getting some exercise are still fun, too. And the device will be there when they get back.
- ### 7. EXPLAIN SECURE WIFI NETWORKS

Your home WiFi is protected by a password that only your family knows, whereas public networks (like those found in coffee shops, for example) can be accessed by anyone. It's important that your child grasps this difference because, if they're using a portable device on an unsecured network, then a hacker could access their personal information without them even knowing.
- ### 8. LIMIT SCREEN TIME

Using a device for too long, especially just before bed, can interfere with a child's sleep quality and reduce their concentration and overall enthusiasm. It might be helpful to agree on certain times of day when they don't use their device. Most devices' settings let you specify a screen-time limit, helping your child to stay fresh and focused in order to perform well at school.
- ### 9. ONLY PAIR WITH KNOWN BLUETOOTH DEVICES

Your child may want to connect to another device via Bluetooth, so they can listen to music wirelessly or share pictures and videos with nearby friends. But if they use Bluetooth to link with a device that they don't know, they're at risk of a stranger being able to see their personal information or having someone transmit a virus onto their device.
- ### 10. TURN LOCATION SETTINGS OFF

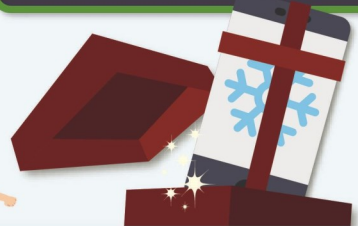
It's safest to disable the device's location services (if it's a portable device) so your child doesn't inadvertently make other people aware of where they are. You can usually do this via the device's privacy control settings. Turning location settings off not only means your child's whereabouts can't be tracked by others, it also significantly extends battery life.
- ### 11. STAY AWARE OF THE SURROUNDINGS

It's quite common to see adults not looking where they're going while engrossed in their phone. Children are even more easily distracted. In some cases, children have been hit by cars or cyclists because they were staring at their device and lost track of where they were. Remind your child that screens and walking don't mix. If they need to use their device, they should stop in a safe place first.
- ### 12. BE THERE IF THEY NEED TO TALK

Even when you've made a device as secure as you can, there's still a possibility of your child seeing something that bothers them, or someone they don't know attempting to contact them. If this happens, listen to their concerns, empathise and reassure them. Once they've explained what happened, you can decide if you should take further action like blocking or reporting another user.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday





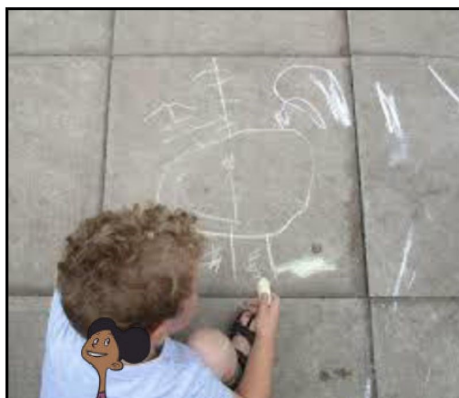
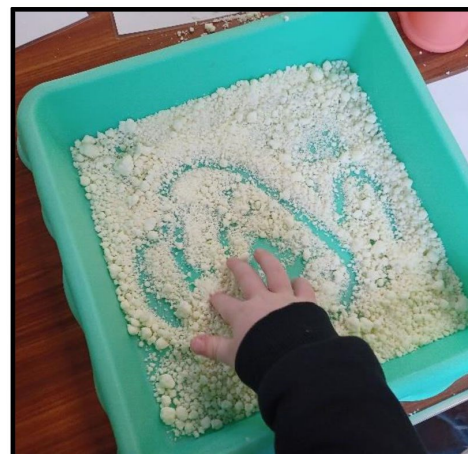
Play, Chat and Learn!

Play, Chat and Learn is a new programme in Sheffield supporting parents with their child's learning and development through play in the home.

Play, Chat and Learn: Workshops

For parents/carers who would like to know more about supporting their child's early learning and development at home.

They can come along to one of our workshops full of ideas and fun activities for families to enjoy together. The sessions are aimed at toddler and pre-schoolers. There will also be online workshops provided.



Play, Chat and Learn: Drop-in sessions

These drop-in sessions are for families with preschool children with questions or concerns about their child's speech and language development.

Community Early Practitioners will support families through advice and signposting to relevant services.

For session dates and more information, please visit the Sheffield Directory: [Play, Chat and Learn | Sheffield \(sheffielddirectory.org.uk\)](https://www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk)





Making it REAL

Making it REAL is an evidence-based programme delivered by a team of Sheffield Family Hub Community Early Years Practitioners. The programme is aimed at parents/carers of children aged 3-4 years old.

It builds on parents/carers knowledge and confidence so that they can help their child with reading, writing and creating a positive home learning environment. The programme is delivered via a combined approach of home visits and fun workshops.

Through the one-to-one visits and workshops parents/carers will be given practical ideas to support play, learning and early language development in readiness for school. Workers will support and guide families with any next steps and information.

Practitioners will need to complete an Early Help Assessment Form Part 1 to refer families to the programme this can be found on the '[How to contact your Early Help Hub](#)' page on the Sheffield Directory.

Parents/Carers: If you would like to book a space on the programme or would like to find out more please contact Sheffield Family Hubs on 0114 273 5665 or email sheffieldfamilyhubs@sheffield.gov.uk

