



# Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 31st January 2022

[www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org](http://www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org)

**Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>What's Happening this Week?</b>	F2 Big PE Day	Nursery—parent/carer phone calls	Y1 Big PE Day 3pm Disney Song and Dance Club	Y2 Big PE Day 3pm Football Club Nursery—parent/carer phone calls	
<b>And Next Week ?</b>	F2 Big PE Day  Office block rebuild project starts		Y1 Big PE Day 3pm Disney Song and Dance Club	Y2 Big PE Day 3pm Football Club	School breaks up for half term



**Attendance for the week ending 28th January 2022:**

Class	Attendance (%)
Mrs Jordan	91.8
Mrs Hibberd	96.7
Miss Dale	74.3
Mrs Bettinson/Mrs Briggs	97.5
Miss Hughes/ Mrs Hipkin	90.3
Mrs Timmons	93.8

Overall attendance for the week was 91%

## Parent Governor

Thank you so much to the parents/carers who have expressed interest in one of our governor roles. We are delighted by the response and the Chair of the Governing Board, Liz Booth, will be in touch with those who contacted us about this to discuss this further before the two new governors are selected.

## Half term

Just a quick reminder that we break up for half term on 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



- If your child started in nursery in 2021 and you have not yet booked a telephone meeting appointment for either Tuesday 1st or Thursday 3rd February, you can still do so. You should have received the booking links already. If not, please have a word with Jenette.
- This week children in nursery will be celebrating the start of the Chinese New Year.
- Please could we ask that parents/carers to encourage children to practise putting on coats and doing up the zips.

## **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 Edenedred as the supplier of the vouchers as schools and parents/carers are familiar with the two-step process involved in downloading the vouchers.

The Council aims to have the voucher letters sent out to parents by second class post, and eligible families will receive them this week—**w/c Monday 31st January**. The letter will include the website link for Edenedred 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 Edenedred in case you need support downloading/redeeming etc. out of term time.

Any child/young person that becomes eligible for a food voucher between **21<sup>th</sup> January–13<sup>th</sup> February** will be sent a voucher letter **w/c 20<sup>th</sup> February**.

### **The Process**

As before, parents/carers need to go to the following website to redeem their October vouchers -  
[www.selectyourcompliment.co.uk/grocery](http://www.selectyourcompliment.co.uk/grocery)

- Enter the unique 16-digit e-Code and select the chosen supermarket. Edenedred 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 Edenedred 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 Edenedred directly with an enquiry about an eCode or voucher at [freeschoolmealsparentcarers@edenred.com](mailto:freeschoolmealsparentcarers@edenred.com) or telephone 0333 400 5932
- The Council has produced a short 'How to...' video for parents - <https://youtu.be/14l2yCcOnNo>

**Please note: If any parent/carer is facing financial hardship, there is free advice and support available at**

**[www.citizensadvicesheffield.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvicesheffield.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](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/your-city-council/coronavirus-hub/support-for-people)**

## Building update

### This week...

The mobile toilet block for our Y2 children, and the staff block, arrived before school today and are situated on the top yard. These units will be connected to services such as electricity and water over the next few days so we have everything we need in preparation for the project to start officially on Monday 7th February.

As part of this, we are expecting a short period of downtime on our phone lines on Friday 4th February as the system needs to be removed from the current office block and re-positioned/reconnected to one of these mobile units. We will remind you that this is going to happen through texts on Friday morning. We will send you temporary contact phone numbers to use during this time so you can still contact nursery and school during this short period of downtime (we anticipate this will be on Friday afternoon).

**It would be really helpful if you could inform classroom staff on the door if someone is collecting your child from school on this day.** Thank you for your support.

### Next week...

The team of contractors arrive on site from 7th February, as the project (funded and organised by Sheffield City Council) formally starts a week today, and will run until the end of May. The contractors will set up their working area next week, and all contractors, materials, contractor welfare facilities etc. will safely be behind a line of fencing which will run across the width of the top yard to ensure safety at all times. This safety fencing will run from the large tree at the corner of field to the middle of the main school building and the area will not be accessible to staff or pupils.

For safety, and to minimise disruption for our school community, the demolition of the old timber office building (containing the main entrance/school offices/children and staff toilets/intervention room) will take place over the February half term holiday, and the block will then be rebuilt using block work construction over the following 16 weeks or so.

Apart from the space needed on a section of the yard, in addition to our Y2 children using temporary toilets and a change to the entrance into the main school building, there should be minimal disruption to the children's school day as classrooms are not affected by this work.

The classroom blocks and Y2 classrooms in the main school building will be unaffected during this project so teaching and learning will continue as normal, although there will be some amendments needed on a temporary basis such as:

- A section of the playground (nearest the Caretaker's house) will not be accessible from 7th February as this will be where the contractors are working. This area (in addition to the back of the building near the ramp to Nursery) will be fenced off for safety.
- We will need to access temporarily the main school building via the back door of school as the main entrance to school will no longer be in use. This will be demolished and repositioned when it is rebuilt.
- For the duration of the project there will be a temporary mobile staff block, and a mobile block of toilets for Y2, sited on the top yard (near the sport yard/the entrance to Mrs Hibberd's class).
- Mrs Hibberd's Y2 class will enter/exit their classroom as normal.
- From 7th February, Mrs Jordan's Y2 class will use the back door to enter school each morning (NB parents/carers - please walk your children to the back door each morning to say good morning as you handover to Mrs Jordan). At home time from 7th Feb, we will also ask parents/carers collecting children in Mrs Jordan's class to wait in an allocated section of the playground. Mrs Jordan/Mrs Hunter will bring the children to the gate at the side of the main building to dismiss the children to you. The waiting area at home time will be the area of the playground behind Mrs Hibberd's classroom.
- Apart from the temporary location of the Y2 toilets, the disruption to our Y2 children should be minimal as the main school building is remaining intact (it is only the extension that adjoins this building that is being replaced).

As we said in the last newsletter, we are thrilled that this project is happening as we believe that your children deserve the best school environment, and are confident that this will make a real difference to our school. This project is being delivered and funded by Sheffield City Council and all work will be overseen and quality assured by them. If you have any questions about the project, please forward these to school and we will share with Paul Dronfield, the project manager.

## **Coming up next week - 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 next 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/carer session to support children with anxiety— please see the back of this newsletter for more information!

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.

## **Finally—a little THANK YOU!**

## **Friends Group Christmas Fund-raising**

As you know, our Friends Group ran 2 projects before Christmas. We have now received our commission payment, and thought you might like to know how much was raised:

**Cauliflower Christmas project** (your child's design printed on cards, wrapping paper, mugs, etc) £121.50

**Tea towels and coasters project** (every child's self-portrait on a tea-towel, or individually on a coaster): £495.04

**A grand total of £616.54**

**Some of the money raised will be used to resource special activities for the children, such as providing all classes with Easter activities and treats for Easter egg hunts, and to buy new book bags to help welcome all our new starters to nursery/school.**

Thank you so much to everyone who helped to raise this amount, and to Mrs Tatham for organising this!

Kind regards,

Paula Bestall

## Fear-Less Triple P programme for parents/carers

The Sheffield Parent Hub is offering a seminar for parents of children (aged 6-16) who would like to get some tips on anxiety management for their family.

The seminar aims to provide support on helping your children learn to manage anxiety. Practitioners will introduce parents to some information about anxiety and provide positive parenting strategies that support the development and behaviour of children with anxiety.

Further information is shown below. Places can be booked at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/sheffield-parent-hub-17631456258>

New!

# **Fear-Less Triple P**

**Seminar for parents of children (aged 6-16) who'd like to get some tips on anxiety management for their family.**

**Helping your children learn to manage anxiety.**

**Practitioners introduce parents to some information about anxiety and provide positive parenting strategies that support the development and behaviour of children with anxiety.**

**The topics covered include:**

- **Understanding how anxiety works.**
- **Becoming the best possible model of anxiety management for all their children.**
- **Becoming effective emotion coaches.**
- **Understanding and teaching the value of flexible thinking.**
- **Managing their children's anxiety effectively.**
- **Using constructive coping**



**Book now via Eventbrite:  
<http://bit.ly/sheffparenthub>**



**Sheffield parent hub** for every family