



Weekly Family Newsletter

Tuesday 7th May 2024

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.



Attendance figures for week ending 3rd May

Class	Attendance (%)
Miss Clewes	91.5
Mrs Hibberd	94.0
Mrs Thorpe	87.9
Miss White/Mrs Briggs	97.8
Miss Hughes/Mrs Bettinson	100
Mrs Timmons	94.3

Whole school attendance = 94.0%

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, please ring as early as possible on 0114 248 2360. Choose Option 2.

Summer safety

Now we are (hopefully) moving into better weather, please ensure that your child is bringing a sun hat and water bottle with them to school, and sunscreen has been applied before school. Please also check that your child's name is in their cardigan/jumper and coat, as, at this time of year, they are often taken off during play and lunchtimes and it makes it much easier for us to ensure lost property is returned to its owner.

PE days

PE days for this half term are:

F2 = Tuesday
Year 1 = Friday
Year 2 = Thursday

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.

Learners of the week

Congratulations to last week's Learners of the Week!

	
Audrey and Ava P	Gemma and Harmony
	
Lacey and Alfie G	Bradley and Oscar
	
Every child!	Every child!

Parents\Carers not cancelling after-school and breakfast club sessions

As you know, Superkids after-school club and Breakfast club are very busy, and are often full. We just want to remind you that, if your child does not attend a session that has been booked for them, you will be charged, unless your child has been off school (or sent home from school) with illness.

We are having to turn families away who need to use the clubs, and then find that we could have accommodated them after all as booked sessions are not being used.

If your child is on our regular bookings list (where we pre-book sessions for you for a month at a time) and misses a particular session 3 weeks in a row (eg 3 Tuesdays at Superkids) then we will remove your child's name from the regular bookings list and will not pre-book sessions in the future. (You will still be able to book sessions yourself.)

We thank you for your understanding.

OFSTED

As you are aware we had our Ofsted inspection last week. This was a routine 'ungraded' inspection, 5 years on from the school's last one in 2019:

When Ofsted has judged a school to be good or outstanding after a a graded inspection, which is carried out under section 5 of the Education Act 2005 (the Act), we will then normally go into the school about once every 4 years to confirm that the school remains good or outstanding and that safeguarding is effective. This is called an ungraded inspection, and it is carried out under section 8 of the Act. Ofsted does not give graded judgements on an ungraded inspection.

We shall be able to share the outcome of this visit with you once the draft report has been written, agreed and published. This generally takes around 35 working days from the date of the inspection.

Attendance

As you know, we are working hard to increase our school attendance this year. At the end of the Spring term (term 2), the whole school attendance for children in F2 and KS1 was 94.5%. We have 101 of our pupils whose attendance is currently at or above our target of 94% and, out of these, 18 children who have remained at 100% attendance all year! Thankyou for your cooperation in supporting your child's attendance.

We understand that children do get ill or have appointments, so please do continue to inform us of any absences. This information is important so that we can mark our registers accurately. If we do not know why your child is absent, then this absence will be classed as unauthorised.

2024-2025 school calendar

At the end of this newsletter is our school calendar for next academic year, including our INSET days. This calendar is the same as Halfway Junior School's calendar. We have also re-shared with you the change in attendance fines information from next year; please note the increase in fines for term-time holidays as well as the new fines for unauthorised absences. Unauthorised absences are defined as any absences that school does not have information about, or absences that school can not authorise (such as term time holidays).

Year 2 optional SATS

From this year, schools do not have to administer formally the end of KS1 SATs to children in year 2 and publish the results. However, test materials have still been created and delivered to schools by the DfE for those schools who wish to use them as a form of assessment. Our year 2 children will be sitting these tests (the teachers refer to them as 'quizzes') in the final two weeks of this half term, to support our assessment for the final summer half term and aid their transition into KS2. These tests will be carried out in an age-appropriate way. and the results used to inform the children's end of year attainment. If you have any questions about these 'quizzes' then please speak with your child's class teacher.

Phonics screening check - year 1 and some year 2 pupils

During the week beginning 10th June, children in year 1 (and those children in year 2 who did not pass the check last year) will undertake their phonics screening check. This is a national check. Children will work 1:1 with a known adult to segment and blend 40 real words and alien words. Whilst we do not know the pass rate for this year's check (this is determined after the check has taken place), for the past few years it has been 32. Your child's score will be shared with you alongside their end of year report. Children who do not meet the pass mark in year 1 will be required to sit the check again in year 2. To support your child to achieve their best, please read with them regularly and use the materials shared with you in the pack they brought home last half term. Please also ensure that your child attends school regularly and promptly, particularly in the week of the check. Should you have any further questions about this, then please speak with your child's class teacher.

Scarlet Fever

We have a few confirmed cases of scarlet fever in school. Further information about symptoms associated with this can be found on the NHS pages here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

FREE FOOD SUPPLEMENT VOUCHERS FOR MAY SPRING BANK HOLIDAYS

The Government Household Support Grant aims to assist with rising food and energy costs and Sheffield City Council recognises that many families continue to face financial difficulties due to rising costs of food and energy.

Below are the Council's plans to provide food supplement vouchers once again for 33,000 children and young people across the city for the May Spring Bank holidays.

A £15 food supplement voucher will be sent to the following groups to help over May Spring Bank:

- Families who claim income-based Free School Meals (FSM)
- Families who get income-assessed Early Years Support (2–4-Year-Olds)
- Young people leaving their care setting (Care Leavers).

The Plan

The Council has chosen to continue to use Edenred as the supplier of the vouchers as schools and parent/carers are familiar with the two-step process involved in downloading the vouchers.

The voucher letters should arrive with parents w/c 20 May. The letter will include the website link for Edenred and clear instructions on how to download the voucher. Parents should contact their school/establishment in the first instance if they need help with downloading or printing their vouchers.

The Process

As before, parents/carers need to go to the following website to redeem their vouchers - www.selectyourcompliment.co.uk/grocery, enter their unique 16-digit e-Code and select their chosen supermarket. Edenred gives a choice of 11 supermarkets: Aldi, Asda, B&M, Company Shop, Farmfoods, Iceland McColl's, M&S, Tesco, Sainsbury's and Waitrose.

Parents/carers can 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 they cannot find this, they should check their Junk/Spam folder.

Please note that codes need to be activated within 3 months of the date of issue (20 May) or they will be cancelled automatically.

Once vouchers have been redeemed on the Edenred website they 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.

If a parent is facing financial hardship, there is free advice and support available at www.citizensadvicesheffield.org.uk or they can call on 0808 278 7820.

Additional support can also be found via Sheffield City Council's Community Support Helpline on 0114 273 4567 or at www.sheffield.gov.uk/costofliving

If you have any concerns about the plans for the May half-term food supplement vouchers, or would like to discuss the arrangements for your school further, please do not hesitate to get in touch at schoolfood@sheffield.gov.uk

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR THE 2024/25 ACADEMIC YEAR For community and voluntary controlled primary, secondary and special schools

September (21 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October (19 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November (20 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December (15 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January (20 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February (15 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

March (20 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April (11 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

May (16 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June (21 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July (17 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- Denotes Bank Holidays
- Denotes School Holidays

195 days – including 5 days to be taken as professional development days for teaching staff

Denotes INSET day

Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing!

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

5 consecutive days of term time leave

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days. Inset training days are school days and can be included in the 5 or more consecutive days where there was intent to be absent for term time leave.

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate, due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.



Do you love sewing? We needle you!

We're looking for the next bunch of talented home sewers to showcase their creativity and technical skills on the new series of BBC 1's The Great British Sewing Bee!

If you or someone you know is a brilliant amateur sewer then apply now!

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Applications close Wed 15th May 2024