



# Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 3rd June 2024

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

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



Attendance figures for week ending 24th May

Class	Attendance (%)
Miss Clewes	94.2
Mrs Hibberd	93.0
Mrs Thorpe	84.6
Miss White/Mrs Briggs	90.4
Miss Hughes/Mrs Bettinson	99.5
Mrs Timmons	84.8

Whole school attendance = 91.2%

**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—reminder

Now we are moving into better weather, please ensure that your child is bringing a sun hat and water bottle with them to school, and sun cream has been applied before school. Please also check that your child's name is in their cardigan/jumper and coat. 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 = Thursday**  
**Year 2 = Friday**

## 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.

## School timings

After consulting with all stakeholders regarding the changes to the school timings from September 2024 to bring our opening hours in-line with the government expectation of 32.5 hours per week, the governors of both the Infant and Junior school can confirm that the hours of both schools will change from September 2024 to:

Nursery		
Morning session	Lunch session*	Afternoon session
8:30am - 11:30am	11:30am - 12pm	12pm - 3pm

*\*Nursery lunchtime will be shortened to 30 minutes. If you pay for this additional session, the cost of this will reflect the shortening of the time.*

Halfway Nursery Infant School		
Classroom doors open	Official start time/registration	End of school day
8:40am	8:40am	3:10pm

Halfway Junior School		
Classroom doors open	Official start time/registration	End of school day
8:45am	8:55am	3:25pm

Whilst the governors are aware that no solution will be perfect for everyone, the feedback given indicates that the above timings are the best options for the majority of our families. From consulting with parents across the two schools, some concerns were raised regarding some of the logistics about the new hours. We hope that the solutions/clarifications below help to alleviate any concerns:

**It states the classrooms open at 8:40am and registration begins at 8:40am. If a child is late due to parents/children queuing to get into school, will they be given a late mark?**

*\* Registration will take place within a time period that begins at 8:40am, with lessons starting promptly afterwards. We will ensure that this time frame allows for a calm drop off, and provides adequate time for the children to enter the classroom. Children will only receive a late mark should they arrive after the registers have closed and lessons have started (as is our current practice).*

*\* We ask families to ensure their children are arriving promptly for 8:40am so that the children are not missing out on morning work/activities.*

**We are worried about being late to the Junior School at the end of the day if Infant classes are late to be let out.**

*\* We will ensure that drop offs and pickups are prompt to enable families to move between settings and sites. However, there are times when, unfortunately, things can run a little late, or a teacher may need to speak with you, or you may need to speak to a teacher. If this is the case, please do not worry. Staff at the Junior school will look after any child who is being picked up late. They can be made aware of the situation when necessary.*

**The Nursery/Infant start and finish times aren't staggered enough and are going to create even busier pick up/drop off times due to the new timings not allowing for the Nursery parents to have dropped off and left prior to the Infant parents arriving, and vice versa at pick up.**

*\* We may find that the road outside school does become busier due to Nursery parents arriving and leaving at a similar time to the Infant school parents, as well as some families changing routine to drop off at the Infant school first. Whilst we can not change our parking arrangements, we would ask that, to ease congestion, families choose to park a little further away and 'park and stride' (particularly if they are not moving between sites). We do ask that families continue to be mindful of our neighbours who continue to need access to their properties at all times.*

**The change to the end of the day timings clash with other schools/clubs that my other children attend.**

*\* Unfortunately, we are unable to fit our timings around all the local schools/clubs that some of our families also attend. We do run breakfast and after school clubs daily, which could be used to help.*

## Attendance

As you know we monitor individual attendance closely. Over the year, with your support, we have managed to raise our overall attendance and reduce our number of pupils classed as persistently absent (those with attendance below 90%).

By the end of the last half term (Summer 1) our overall attendance for pupils in EYFS and KS1 was **94.4%** and the number of pupils classed as persistently absent had fallen to **12%**. Therefore, we are currently on track to meet our end of year targets!

Some more amazing numbers are:

- 14 children have 100% overall attendance!
- 100 children have attendance at, or above, our school target!



## Summer dates

Last half term we shared with you key summer diary dates. Coming up this week is the Y1 Victorian Classroom experience. This will be a fun immersive day for the children to give them a great 'hook' for learning to start off their new topic all about the Victorians. If you have not yet paid for this visit, please make this payment as soon as you can via ParentPay.

Other upcoming events are.....

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June** – School Councillors summer picnic

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June** – Vocabulary Parade

Parents are invited to watch the parade from 2:15pm (weather dependant)

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June** – F2 and KS1 sports morning. All children should come to school in sports clothes.

Parents are invited to watch:

9:10am - 9:40am - F2

9:50am - 10:50am - Y1

11am – 12pm - Y2

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June** – Nursery sports day

Parents do not attend this event. Children who come to nursery on this day should come wearing sports clothes.

## Phonics screening check

The national phonics screening check will take place next week for all children in year 1 and for those in year 2 who did not pass it last year. Please support your child during this week and next by ensuring they are at school every day and on time, as well as practising their phonics through their reading books and the resources shared with you by your child's class teacher.

## Curriculum Maps

This term's curriculum maps will be shared with you later this week. They outline what your children will be learning this half term, and ways in which you can help at home.

## Vocabulary parade reminder - Wednesday 19th June

National Writing Day is an annual nation-wide celebration of the power of writing creatively. It aims to inspire people of all ages and abilities to try writing for fun and self-expression.

The Vocabulary Parade has quickly become one of our favourite yearly events, and so we have decided to celebrate National Writing Day with this event again on Wednesday 19th June. This will be a non-uniform day as we would like you to get creative at home and think of a word that your child can 'dress' as for the day (please see below for examples!).

This school-wide activity is a fun way to encourage children to learn and explore new vocabulary. They will also engage in activities throughout the day to encourage them to develop their vocabulary and apply new words in their play and learning.

### **How does my child get ready for the parade?**

#### *Get creative!*

Help your child select a word for the parade, one that would be fun to use to create a costume to represent the word and its meaning. You could design and create your costume using t-shirts, boxes, hats, fabric, etc., or keep it simple with clothes that are already in the wardrobe (there is no expectation to buy anything new or expensive).

Please make sure that your child can see and walk and play safely with the costume on, and is also able to use the toilet independently when wearing it (best to avoid onesies!)

Make a large vocabulary card with your child's word on it so that everyone knows which word they have chosen to represent. Children can carry the card, make it into a headband, or have it as a part of their costume!

### **Need some inspiration? A few examples:**

*'Colourful'* - Wear as many different coloured items of clothing as you can;

*'Thoughtful'* - Draw and cut out lots of thought bubbles and question marks to attach to your outfit;

*'Sparkly'* - How many glittery items of clothing do you have? You could even add glitter to your hair.

These are just a few ideas, and we are sure you can come up with much more original and creative ideas than we have!

In the afternoon, we are inviting you to come and join us at 2:15pm (weather permitting) where children (including nursery children) will gather outside for a Vocabulary Parade to show off their creative outfits. In the event of rain, the parade will take place in the hall and, unfortunately due to numbers, parents will not be able to attend. Morning nursery children will hold their own vocabulary parade up in the nursery yard. Parents are invited to watch this parade at 11am.

We can't wait to see all the fantastic outfits, and, hopefully, learn some new and exciting vocabulary too!

## Foodbank collection—Friday 7th June

A reminder that the next foodbank collection will be held on 7th June.

Please note, we are unable to include fresh or chilled foods in our parcels.  
We welcome tinned and dried foods. The following are the items that we most need:

-Soup	-Tinned Potatoes
-Sponge puddings	-Tinned Meat (eg. pies, corned beef, hot dogs etc)
-Custard	-Tinned fish (tuna, salmon, sardines)
-UHT/Longlife milk	-Tinned vegetables
-Rice puddings	-Tinned fruit
-Squash/Juice	-Pasta sauces
-Biscuits/Treats	-Curry/chilli sauces
-Crisps	-Tea/coffee
-Toiletries (toothpaste, shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant)	-Sugar
-Washing Powder	-Rice
-Toilet roll	-Cereal
-Nappies/wipes	-Preserves (jam, marmalade, choc spread)
-Tinned Tomatoes	-Bags for Life
-Beans/spaghetti in sauce	-Pasta

If you would like to volunteer with us, please get in touch to arrange a meeting  
You can make financial donations at the following account:  
Account Number: 00217360  
Sort Code: 60 01 73

## Y2 - Y3 Transition to Halfway Juniors

Children in year 2 who will be transitioning to Halfway Juniors this year will have received their 'Welcome pack' before half term. The information that needs to be returned to the Junior school can either be handed into the Infant school or Junior school office, or brought to the parent information meeting on June 17th.

## School Council - Big Tidy!

The School Council braved the wet weather on the Wednesday before half term to join in with the Westfield Big Tidy.

Together they tidied up the trim trail area, litter picking and weeding before replanting all the pots around school with wildflowers. They even filled the planters in the F2 paddock so the children will be able to plant herbs around their digging patch.

Every school councillor worked so hard, and it was a pleasure to see them working collaboratively to make Halfway Infant School an even nicer place to be. We can't wait to see the wildflowers bloom!



## Fundraising—reminder

A group of pupils from our school has decided to take part in the Lidl Tough Mudder on 6th July, with the aim of raising money for our school. If you would like to sponsor them please use the link below to access their **gofundme** page.

<https://gofund.me/abbb074a>.



# Halfway Nursery Infant School Family Summer Picnic



Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024  
3pm – 4.30pm  
at Halfway Infant School

Our parent group (Halfway Infant People) and staff would like to invite all children and their families to an after school summer picnic at Halfway Infants.

Please bring along a picnic to share with your family and blanket to sit on and relax.  
(No alcohol or nuts to be consumed on school site please)

There will be a range of games and stalls offering fun for all the family, so please bring along some spare change too and help us raise money for school.

Handmade  
Craft Stall

Splat the  
Rat

Ice Pop  
Stall

Beat the  
Goalie

Cake  
Stall

Temporary  
Tattoos

Nail  
Painting

Bean  
Bag Toss

Pre-loved  
Uniform Stall

And lots more!



Starting  
22nd  
May

We are looking for the next generation of girl footballers to join our brand new U7's girls football team

**ENQUIRE NOW**

Email [westfieldrangers@gmail.com](mailto:westfieldrangers@gmail.com)  
Or message Laura on 07528 196610

**PLAYERS  
WANTED**

FOR A NEW U7'S GIRLS  
FOOTBALL TEAM

Venue is Reignhead Playing Field

Training Wednesday's 6pm to 7pm