



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 4th January 2021

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

Happy New Year to you all!

On behalf of the team here, we hope you all had a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Since I wrote to you to share the government's plans for the staggered re-opening of schools on New Year's Eve, there have been some developments nationally (as I am sure you have seen in the news). Following on from this, Sheffield City Council reviewed the most up to date information yesterday and advised schools last night that Sheffield 'primary schools should reopen' (please find a letter attached from Sheffield's Director of Public Health which describes the current situation in Sheffield and which sets out the Council's current advice to schools). However, **the situation continues to be reviewed locally and nationally and this guidance is subject to change.**

We are very much looking forward to seeing the children tomorrow after their Christmas break, although we are also very aware that Boris Johnson is due to make a statement this evening and so will of course be in touch should this affect our plans in any way.

In the meantime, please can we reiterate the importance of the existing measures to minimise risks when you return to school, such as -

- the one way system at drop off/collection times
- parents/carers arriving promptly at your bubble time - please do not arrive early to avoid crowds gathering at the gate
- social distancing for all adults on and around the school site
- face coverings for adults when groups are on the yard please (unless exempt)
- only one parent/carer per family on the yard to minimise numbers on site
- no access to school buildings without prior appointment
- enhanced cleaning schedule and hygiene measures continue in school
- children in each bubble will not mix during the school day (please keep your children with you on the yard and away from any play equipment before/after schools as equipment/areas cannot be shared between different bubble groups due to risk)
- anyone who is unwell with symptoms must not attend the school site
- if your child has been in contact with anyone who has tested positive, or if someone in the household is symptomatic/awaiting a test, your child must not attend school and you should follow the stay at home guidance
- please avoid using public transport at busy times to drop off/collect from school wherever possible

Mass testing is not yet being introduced to primary schools, but we will keep you updated about the government's plans for this.

Class Bubble timings

The same staggered start/end times for each class bubble will continue, as follows -

Class/Bubble Name	Year Group	Teacher	Start time	End time
Nursery	F1	Harley Maloney	AM 8:15/PM 12:15	AM 11:15/PM 3:15
Gruffalo	F2	Miss Hughes	8:45 AM	2:55 PM
Elmer	F2	Mrs Timmons	8:25 AM	2:35 PM
Rainbow Fish	Y1	Miss Dale	8:30 AM	2:40 PM
Hungry Caterpillars	Y1	Miss Kay/Mrs Hibberd	8:40 AM	2:50 PM
Enormous Crocodiles	Y2	Mrs Jordan	8:35 AM	2:45 PM
Crafty Chameleons	Y2	Mrs Briggs/Mrs Bettinson	8:20 AM	2:30 PM

Please contact us between 8am-4pm on the usual school phone or email address if you have any enquiries

Updated guidance for parents/carers from the Government on 'What you need to know about early years providers, school and colleges during the Covid-19 outbreak' -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

First PE Challenge of the Year!

Starting this week, Miss Maloney is setting a fortnightly PE challenge for the children have fun as they get fit!

Here is challenge number one:

- **How many star jumps can you do in 30 seconds?**
- **How many star jumps can you do in 1 minute?**
- **Keep repeating the challenge - can you then beat your best score?**

NURSERY NEWS

- We would be grateful if you could save your old (appropriate!) Christmas cards for us somewhere safe at home, ready to bring into nursery at a later date please
- We also ask please that you send children with a warm winter coat, as the weather is very chilly and children spending a lot of time learning outside at nursery

With very best wishes,

Paula Bestall

Headteacher

Director of Public Health Office
Sheffield Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield, S1 2HH
www.sheffield.gov.uk



3rd January 2021

Dear Headteacher,

Thank you for all that you are doing to keep our schools open and safe and for all the work you may have undertaken through the Christmas holidays. We all know how important school is for our children – for their education and for their emotional wellbeing. Following the recent national developments over the weekend regarding schools reopening we understand that you will have questions and some concerns. We are writing to outline our local advice.

We do recognise that we have to balance educational provision and the safety of school staff and pupils. Sheffield remains at this time in Tier 3 restrictions. Our latest case data up to 1st January 2021 tells us we have 175 positive COVID cases per 100,000. You will have seen the increased case rates in the South and South East of the country. London case rates at the 28th December 2020 were 762 positive COVID cases per 100,000. Transmission of the new variant of the virus means that difficult decisions are having to be made regarding the opening of schools after the Christmas holiday and placing parts of the country into Tier 4 restrictions.

There is no doubt this is more transmissible than the initial virus. There is not clear evidence to support that it is more transmissible in children per se nor that it is having a more significant impact on either children or adults. The Royal College of Paediatricians and Child Health have a helpful steer on their website. <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/news-events/news/rcpch-responds-media-reports-increased-admissions-children-young-people-covid-19>

Here in Sheffield whilst our case levels are likely to increase we are confident that at this time **primary schools should reopen**. The decision for secondary schools to have a staggered opening is in order to get the testing programme up and running and is not reflective of increased virus transmission or high case rates in Sheffield.

We are very aware there is a lot of confusion and conflicting information on social media and elsewhere. Our position is based on the available scientific information as it is today, we are mindful this is continually developing, and we are reviewing it constantly.

We would support all our local primary and special schools to reopen. We know that head teachers and governing bodies are continually reviewing school-based risk assessments and having to consider staffing and capacity issues. Where schools are confident that they have adequate staffing and their risk assessments are in place schools should reopen. All schools will remain open for the children of key workers.

The Local Authority Public Health team will continue to monitor and review the situation locally. We also recognise parents and teachers fears, anxiety and concerns. The schools and school staff continue to do an amazing job. For this we thank you. We will also be speaking directly to secondary schools on 4th January 2021 about establishing the national testing programme.

We do appreciate that this has been a confusing and unsettling time for schools trying to manage the safe and effective return to school. Thank you all for your continued hard work and dedication to our children & young people.

For pupils and school staff returning to school on the 4th January 2021 we'd remind everyone of what you can do to continue to reduce COVID-19 in your community.

What can you do to reduce Covid-19 in your community



Got Symptoms?

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

If you have **any** of these symptoms, however mild, **you must stay home, don't go into school and book a free test** via our easy, accessible tests centres here in Sheffield. Most test results are now coming back within 24 hours. You can book a test by calling 119 or online at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>

We have slowed and reduced the spread of the virus in Sheffield. We need to continue to do this by following the restrictions. This will then allow us all to get back to enjoying more activities and time with our friends and families soon.

Yours sincerely

Greg Fell
Director of Public Health, Sheffield