



Weekly Family Newsletter

Monday 25th March 2019

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
What's Happening this Week?	2.15pm Rock Steady Concert 3-4pm Gardening After School Club 3-4pm Karate After School Club	1—3pm F2 Big PE 3-4pm Choir After School Club	1—3pm Y1 Big PE 3-4pm Street Dance After School Club	1—3pm Y2 Big PE 3-4pm Football After School Club	3-3.45pm Pop Song After School Club
And Next Week ?	School closed	School closed	School closed	School closed	School closed



Attendance information for the week ending 22nd March 2019:

Class	Attendance (%)
Enormous Crocodiles	90.3
Crafty Chameleons	86.6
Rainbow Fish	93.1
Hungry Caterpillars	90.7
Gruffalos	90.4
Elmers	86.8

Attendance for the whole school last week was 89.6%

Upcoming Diary Dates



Monday 25 March, 2.15pm Rock Steady Concert

Friday 29 March, 9.15am Well Done Assembly

Friday 29 March Last day of Spring term

IMPORTANT - HEALTH INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE



We have a sickness and diarrhoea bug in school. If your child experiences either of these, please ensure they stay at home **for 48 hours** after their last episode before returning to school. This follows advice from our local Health Protection Unit and we are also taking additional measures in school to help minimise the risk of infection. We would very much appreciate your support to help us to keep our children healthy and well. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.



School Holiday—Sat 30th March to Sun 14th April

This term has been a somewhat action packed one, and I am sure the children (and parents/carers!) are ready for a well earned break - as, indeed, are the staff! I can not believe I have almost been here for a year, having started my role at the school after last year's Easter break. A massive thank you to the children, parents/carers, Governing Body and staff for all your support in my first 12 months here; I couldn't wish for a better team of people with which to work.

On behalf of everyone at Halfway Nursery Infant School, thank you so much for all your support. We wish you a happy and healthy school holiday, and will see you back at school on April 15th :-)

Super Starter for the Summer Term - Meet a Creature Day on April 15th

To kick start our new Conservation topic after the holiday break, we have arranged a truly 'hands on' experience for all children in both Nursery and Infants! The 'Meet a Creature' team will be visiting school to lead workshops for each class throughout the day, and children will have the opportunity to handle a variety of creatures: Tarantula, Giant Snail, Water Dragon, Giant Millipede, Corn snake, Tortoise, Royal Python, Crested Gecko, Banded Gecko, Rabbit / Guinea Pig / Chinchilla, Bearded Dragon.

This day will be led by trained and experienced personnel from the 'Meet A Creature' team, will be fully supervised by our staff, and has been fully risk assessed to ensure children's enjoyment and safety. If your child has any allergies to animals, fur etc., please inform your child's class teacher **by Friday 29th March**, as all children will be taking part in the workshops on the first day back.

If you are able to make a £3 voluntary contribution to help towards the costs incurred for this 'Meet the Creature' visit to take place, we would very much appreciate your support. You can make your donation via www.hnipay.co.uk. Thank you.

Attached is a letter from Meet the Creature with more information about the visit.

Section 5 Ofsted Inspection

A big thank you again to all our parents and carers for sharing their views about our school with Ofsted during our full Section 5 inspection, either through the Parent View link we sent out last week, or by speaking with one of the inspectors on the yard before school. We are expecting the inspection report to be published shortly, and will share this with both staff and parents/carers as soon as we receive it.

School lunch menu

During the first week back after the Easter holiday (w/c Mon 15th April), there will be an amended menu—basically, the choices from 'Week 3' of our current menu, with the following exceptions:

- Monday 15th April—Red choice will be turkey meat balls;
- Thursday 18th April—Red choice will be fish fingers.

Our new lunch menu will start on 23rd April 2019 - coming soon!

Head Lice

Head lice has been reported in school. Fortunately, head lice can be kept at bay if we all take action as soon as we notice them. So, please check your child's hair thoroughly. You can find advice on how to identify and treat head lice at <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice>.



Spare shoes for nursery

Nursery are desperate for spare children's shoes! Our children sometimes need a change of shoes, and we need spare pairs from child size 7 to size 12. If you are able to donate children's shoes of these sizes, please let Jenette know in nursery.

Superkids and nursery extra hours invoices

March invoices for Superkids fees and extra nursery hours will be distributed after the Easter holidays i.e. week beginning 15th April.

Friends of Halfway Nursery Infant School (formerly HIP Group)

The next meeting of the Friends of Halfway Nursery Infant School (formerly known as the HIP Group) will take place in the staff room on Thursday 18th April, starting at 2 pm. The group welcomes new parents/carers—come and share your views and ideas on how we can make the school an even better place for our children.

Easter colouring competition

The staff at the Crystal Peaks branch of Blundells are working with local schools, including our school, to support fundraising activities this year (...more info about fundraising fun coming soon!). They have also organised an Easter colouring competition which is open to all children in school. This competition is free for the children to enter, with Easter egg prizes (donated by Blundells) for the winning entries in both Foundation Stage (Nursery and F2 children) and Key Stage 1 (Y1 and Y2 children).

The winning Easter pictures will also be displayed in the window of the Crystal Peaks branch! These colouring sheets will be sent home with the children next week to complete over the Easter holiday, and all entries need to be **handed into the Crystal Peaks branch by the deadline of April 15th.**

Winners will be announced on Thursday 18th April and we will inform parents re arranging to collect prizes!

Good luck!



NURSERY NEWS

In response to a suggestion from parents we have introduced this 'Nursery News' section, which will be a regular feature of all future newsletters.

Easter Bonnet Parade

The nursery Easter Bonnet Parade will take place on Thursday 18th April. Children to make their own Easter bonnet over the holidays ready for the parade on the 18th. Parents/carers can come and watch, at 10.30am or at 2.30pm. There will be a prize awarded at each parade.

Lids for sorting activity

Nursery also needs various sizes of lids for its sorting activity with children. See Jenette for more details of what is needed.

FEL (Funded Early Learning) Forms

A reminder that it is time to sign up for nursery hours for the summer term. If you have not already done so, have a word with Jenette.

One Pint Milk Carton Appeal

Could parents/carers please save and wash their empty 1 pint milk cartons and bring them into nursery as we would like to make mini watering cans with the children.

Halfway Nursery Infant School – March & April Diary Dates

Thursday 14 March	Westfield Celebration Evening	Nominated children have already been invited. The event starts at 6pm. Members of the choir are asked to attend from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.
Friday 15 March	Red Nose Day	Non-uniform day. Children can wear something red if they want to. Contribution of a £1 for Comic Relief
Monday 25 March, 2.15pm	Rock Steady Concert	Parents\carers of children who attend music lessons with Rock Steady are invited to see them perform.
Friday 29 March, 9.15am	Well Done Assembly	Parents\carers of chosen school children will be invited closer to the time.
Friday 29 March	Last day of Spring term	
Monday 1 April–Friday 12 April	'Easter' Holiday	School Closed
Monday 15 April	First day of Summer term	School reopens
CHANGE OF DATE w\ b 15 April	HIP Group's Easter Egg Hunt	The children will be hunting for eggs (provided by HIP Group) during their Big PE sessions.
Tuesday 16 April	HIP Group's Egg Decorating Competition (F2, Y1 and Y2 only)	Hard boil an egg and decorate it any way you wish! Separate children and adult competitions. Free to enter for children, £2 to enter for adults. Prizes provided by HIP Group and local businesses. Bring your entries to the School Office. All entries will be displayed in the Link Corridor for parents\carers to see on Tuesday from 2.30pm, or Wednesday from 8.40am.
Tuesday 16 April 11am & 2.30pm	HIP Group's Easter Bonnet Parades (Nursery\F1 only)	Make a bonnet any way you like! Decorate a hat you already have, make a paper band or tube for your head to decorate, etc. Parents\carers can come to watch the parades. Prizes provided by HIP Group and local businesses.
Monday 15 April	Meet A Creature Day	A donation of £3 per child towards the cost of the event would be very welcome.
Friday 19 April	Good Friday	School closed
Monday 22 April	Easter Monday	School closed
Tuesday 23 April	POINTS Network Games	At the English Institute of Sport. Attendees to be notified nearer the time.
Friday 26 April, 9am	April Birthday Assembly	For school children with a birthday in April; parents\carers invited into the classroom for some cake and a drink.
Wednesday 1 May	Y2 SATs start	These assessments will take place throughout the month of May. We keep it all very low-key; the children are simply told that they are doing 'special work', and the assessments are carried out in small groups.



Meet A Creature Ltd., Swallows' Nest, Finkell St, Gringley-on-the-Hill, Doncaster, DN4 4SF.

Tel: 07432 560371 Email: meetacreature@gmail.com

Website: www.meetacreature.co.uk

'MEET A CREATURE' VISIT TO YOUR SCHOOL

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child's class will soon be taking part in an animal-handling workshop provided by Meet A Creature Ltd.

This will involve the showing and handling of live animals and all of the children will be invited to handle the animals themselves.

The type of animals involved will depend on the topic of the workshop.

Your children's safety is Meet A Creature's highest priority and you can be confident that the animals we bring will be completely safe for children to handle. We also ensure that all children wash their hands after each handling session.

We understand that some children may be nervous about handling animals. We assure you that no child will be required to take part against their will, however we will encourage everyone to get involved. Where necessary our experienced Ranger will support children to build their confidence with the animals.

We aim is to educate and inspire children about the natural world. We are sure that your child will find the workshop an exciting and memorable way to learn about natural science.

Yours sincerely,

Meet A Creature Ltd.



Friends of Halfway Nursery Infant School

Egg Decorating Competition

**(F2, Y1 & Y2 children, and
adults!)**



Entry fee: Free for children. £2 for adults.

Eggs, which should be hard boiled, can be decorated however you like! Entries should be brought in to the school office on

TUESDAY 16th APRIL by 9am

**The School Council will then pick
the winners!**



Shire Brook Valley Nature Reserve

A beautiful nature reserve nestled between Woodhouse and Hackenthorpe.
The car park is located on Stone Lane - S13 7BR. Meet at the Visitor Centre.



Ranger Events 2018



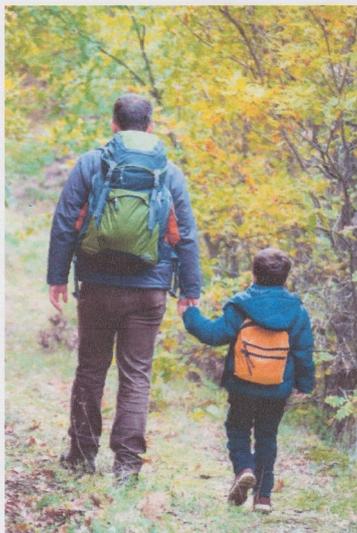
Friday 12th April – 11am to 3pm



Easter Trail



and what can you make with a stick?



Drop in any time, grab a map and find your way around this beautiful nature reserve, complete the trail and receive a little chocolate egg.

Then see what you can make from a stick!

This is a free event.



No need to book, just turn up at the visitor's centre on Stone Lane and join in. Please wear outdoor clothing and sensible footwear.

For more information contact nell.dixon@sheffield.gov.uk
or call 0114 2356348.



Shire Brook Valley Nature Reserve

A beautiful nature reserve nestled between Woodhouse and Hackenthorpe.
The car park is located on Stone Lane in Woodhouse. Meet at the Visitor Centre, S13 7BR.

Ranger Events 2019



- **Friday 12th April: Easter Trail - 11am to 3pm**
and - **What can you make from a stick?**



Drop in any time, grab a map and find your way around this beautiful nature reserve, complete the trail and receive a little chocolate egg. Then see what you can make from a stick! This is a free event.

- **Sunday 9th June: Den building - 1pm to 3pm**

Drop in between 1pm and 3pm and join the rangers for a den building session in the woods. This is a free event.



- **Tuesday 16th July: Teddy Bear's Picnic - 11am to 1pm**



Bring your under 5s down to the nature reserve and join us to play some games, follow a trail and have a picnic together. This is a free event that starts at 11am - just bring a teddy and a picnic!

- **Sunday 18th August: Minibeast Safari - 1pm to 3pm**

Drop in between 1pm and 3pm and find out what minibeasts live on the nature reserve. Come and join us sweep netting, tree shaking and bug hunting to see what we can find. This is a free event.



- **Wednesday 28th August: Family Night Walk - 7:30pm to 9pm**

Come along for a family night walk through the reserve. We will play some games, have a walk and then use the bat detectors to look for bats. This is a free event but **BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL** - contact details below. Sorry, but no buggies or dogs.



Please wear outdoor clothing and sensible footwear.

For more information, or to book (for the night walk), contact:

nell.dixon@sheffield.gov.uk or call 0114 2356348





EASTER EGG COMPETITION

Congratulations to everybody who has taken part in our Easter egg competition this year. We have had some eggs-traspecial entries! Our year group winners have all received their eggs this afternoon and they are;

Y3 Eva M

Y4 Oliver R

Y5 Libby W and Lilly H (joint entry)

Y6 Logan C

The eggs were judged by Mrs Gibson, Mrs Hudson and Mr Hines. Our judges all agreed that this year was one of the best standards of decorating we have ever had, making the final decisions very tricky! Entries will continue to be displayed on the top corridor, please come along and have a look at the eggs-travaganza of eggs! Eggs can be collected after Wednesday and if we have any left on Friday, unfortunately we will have to dispose of them.

STAFFING UPDATES

It is with regret that we must inform you of Mrs Khan's decision not to return to school following a period of ill health. Mrs Khan has worked at the school for 4 years and was a very popular figure. I am certain you will join with me in wishing her every success and happiness for the future. We will keep you updated as to how this role will be managed in the future.

PARENT IN PARTNERSHIP

Parent in Partnership meetings take place this week on Wednesday and Thursday. The booking system, ParentMail, will close 24 hours beforehand. If you have any problems booking an appointment, please contact the school office.

SCHOOL MENU – SPRING SUMMER 2019

There is a new lunch menu for the Spring-Summer 2019 term. The new menu is attached to this newsletter and starts the second week back after the Easter holidays (w/c 22nd March).

HALFWAY HEROES – Y6KH/JO

Parents and families of children in Y6 are welcome to join us at 9am on Tuesday 26th March for our Halfway Hero Awards assembly. You will have received a text if your child is receiving an award. We hope to see you there!

Y5/6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO KINGSWOOD

Today (Monday 25th March) is the final day for our Y4 children (Y5 next academic year) to express their interest in our residential trip to Kingswood in October. Children will find out if they have a place by Friday 29th March. Y5 children (Y6 next year) need to complete the ParentMail form by Friday 29th March and pay a £20 deposit via ParentMail to secure their place. After the 29th, places will be allocated to the Y5 children. Please contact the school office if you have any questions.

AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS – REMINDER

Please complete the forms on ParentMail if your child would like to join an after school club in the Summer term. Applications need to be in by Friday 29th March and children will find out which clubs they have been allocated in the first week back after the Easter holiday.

CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS – REMINDER

If you would like to order a class photograph, please return your order form to the school by tomorrow, Tuesday 26th March. You can still order photographs after this date by placing an order online; however, these orders will have a small delivery charge.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

The last day of school this term is this Friday, 29th March. School will close for two week and will re-open to children on Monday 15th April. Please remember to take home all your belongings during the Easter holidays; this includes lunchboxes, water bottles, PE kits and any other items from the cloakrooms so these can be thoroughly cleaned.