



Weekly Family Bulletin

Monday 22nd June 2020

www.halfwaynurseryinfantschool.org

Caring, Sharing, Learning for Life.

Health and Wellbeing

Morrisons Community Support

The lovely team at the Halfway Morrisons store continues to offer support to our school community. The Community Team at Morrisons is able to arrange food parcels for families who may need this support at the moment, and over the summer holiday. Please contact us if you would like us to put you in touch with Morrisons. Big thanks and much love to the team at Morrisons!



Free Schools Meals over the Summer Holiday

Last week the Government announced the introduction of a "Covid summer food fund". We understand that this will be a single voucher issued for the duration of the Summer break at £15 per week per eligible child. Further guidance and instructions are expected on how schools can apply, so we will let you know when this arrives.

Sleep Support

A lack of sleep can impact on children's behaviour and concentration (and ours too!), as well as have a negative impact on physical and mental wellbeing. If you have noticed that your child's sleep routine has changed during lockdown, you may find the latest 'sleep support' from Sheffield Parenting Team useful. The short videos give tips and advice on getting sleep back on track. In addition, Sleep Seminars are also being offered on Zoom. These are promoted on the Sheffield Parenting Team Facebook Page if you would like to find out more.

Getting your teenager's sleep back on track: <https://youtu.be/vNDY6uX2PHk>

Getting a good night's sleep for school – primary and early years <https://youtu.be/uyfVIsES7Uw>

School Update

Requests for children to return to school this term

All schools have limited capacity at the moment due to social distancing measures and government guidance that aims to minimise risks relating to the spread of Covid-19 in school settings, including operating classes in smaller 'social bubbles'. Staffing capacity is also limited in schools. As a result, we are only able to operate 6 'social bubbles' in our school.

We would like to allocate any remaining places in each of our social 'bubble' year groups as fairly as we possibly can. The key worker children we currently have in school will keep their places in their bubbles and all additional requests we receive for each year group will be considered using the criteria below. This 'priority criteria' was suggested by Sheffield Council at the beginning of this half term to help develop consistency between schools where places are increasingly limited.

If you are in priority criteria 1-3 below, your child is not presently in school, and if you require a school place for your child up to the summer holiday, please contact us as soon as possible, and by noon on Wednesday 24th June at the latest. To request a school place, please email office+bubbleplace@halfway-inf.sheffield.sch.uk. After this time, we will allocate any remaining places to those in categories 4-7 below, in order of priority.

NB - We know some parents/carers have already informed us that they have chosen to care for their children at home up to the summer holiday. Thank you for informing us of this - we respect your decision.

Sheffield City Council's suggested 'priority criteria' :

1. Children who are Looked After and those with a social worker
2. Children with an EHCP
3. Children of critical workers who cannot be safely cared for at home (when requesting a place, please send information about your key worker role. We will contact you if we need any additional information)
4. All other children of critical workers e.g. those with another adult to care for them at home
5. Priority Year Groups
6. 3 / 4 Year FEL
7. All other children

We very much appreciate the impact that being away from school may have for both children and parents/carers. Schools really do want to return to a time when it is safe for all children and adults to be back in education settings, but this cannot yet happen due to the pandemic and the measures needed to try and protect children, staff and parents/carers. Any steps we do take will continue to be in line with all government and Public Health guidance; health, safety and wellbeing in school will stay at the forefront of all decisions made.

Should I keep my child at home if they have an underlying health condition or live with someone in a clinically vulnerable group?

Schools are unable to advise on whether children with an underlying health condition should or should not attend school. We would, therefore, urge parents to seek the advice of a medical professional to find out whether their condition puts them/their child in a 'clinically vulnerable' or 'extremely clinically vulnerable' group so you can decide whether it is safe for them to return to school at the moment. The most recent Government guidance is below for your reference -

Shielded and clinically vulnerable children and young people

"For the vast majority of children and young people, coronavirus (COVID-19) is a mild illness. Children and young people (0 to 18 years of age) who have been [classified as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions](#) have been advised to shield. We do not expect these children to be attending school or college, and they should continue to be supported at home as much as possible. Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19). A small minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category."

Living with a shielded or clinically vulnerable person

"If a child, young person or a member of staff lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, they can attend their education or childcare setting.

If a child, young person or staff member lives in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable, as set out in the [COVID-19: guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable guidance](#), it is advised they only attend an education or childcare setting if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and, in the case of children, they are able to understand and follow those instructions. This may not be possible for very young children and older children without the capacity to adhere to the instructions on social distancing. If stringent social distancing cannot be adhered to, we do not expect those individuals to attend. They should be supported to learn or work at home."

Taken from the document <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings#shielded-and-clinically-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

For a list of vulnerabilities, please see -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing>

Baby news!

We are very pleased to announce that Mrs Lomas's baby girl arrived safely on Friday 12th June. Mum and baby are both well and we all send our love and congratulations to the Lomas family! Mrs Hibberd and Mrs Smales are now covering the SENCO duties at our school in Mrs Lomas's absence.

Supporting children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) at Halfway Nursery Infant School

From September, Mrs Hibberd will be working 3 days per week in her class teacher role, and will also cover SEND admin and school based support each Tuesday for the duration of Mrs Lomas's maternity leave. Each Tuesday from September, Mrs Hibberd will be available for parents/carers to contact in relation to SEND issues, will be visiting children in their classrooms, liaising with other agencies and supporting/attending review meetings to support children with SEND needs. She will also be working alongside our named SEND Coordinator (for the period of Mrs Lomas's maternity leave) - Geneya Smales. Mrs Smales works at Mosborough Primary School, and is also the SENCO at Halfway Junior School. We are, therefore, confident that these arrangements will support children both within Halfway Nursery Infant School and as they prepare to transfer to the Junior School. Mrs Smales is experienced and skilled in her role and will oversee the statutory duties relating to provision at our school, including attending SEND review meetings for our children.



Mrs Smales



Mrs Hibberd

Mrs Hibberd will be contacting relevant parents over the next few weeks to introduce herself and discuss any support needed, including any amendments to resources to support children if they are currently learning at home with you. She will also start to collate information in preparation for the next SEND reviews to support transition into new classes. These will be taking place at the beginning of the Autumn Term for most (if your child is due to move to a school other than Halfway Junior School, Mrs Hibberd will be in touch to arrange your child's review at an earlier date).

Remarkable reading at home

Another big THANK YOU and WELL DONE to those at home for all your hard work and regular reading using our online Bug Club resources. Although class teachers may not be able physically to see all the members of their class in school at the moment, teachers are still working very hard to plan and share online learning packs for all children each week, and are also monitoring the learning at home weekly too by looking at online access to portals such Bug Club etc. to see how they are progressing.

Mrs Timmons was thrilled to send out so many certificates last week, and is already preparing different certificated this week for children trying to beat her 'Remarkable Reading' challenge. Certificates will be sent to children who have read 3 or more books in a week, and have also completed the comprehension quizzes within the books over the past week on Bug Club.

Celebrating your child's progress from this academic year

Our class teachers are busy bees writing their last annual school reports for parents/carers to celebrate all the children's super progress and achievements this year. In line with government guidance, they will report their progress and learning in the period of time up to school closures in March.

The government has removed the requirement for schools to report on attendance this year due to national school closures arising from Covid-19. In addition, schools will not formally be reporting attainment/results as primary assessments such as SATs, the Phonics Screening Test and Early Years Foundation Stage Profile have been cancelled nationally this year. NB - our predictions of what your child was on track to achieve at the end of the year will still be shared with you and with your child's next class teacher, including staff at the receiving school for children moving establishments.

Your child's report will be a holistic view of your child's achievements and all the lovely progress he/she made in learning in school in the Autumn and Spring Term. We are very proud of all our children and cannot wait to share these with you. Details of how reports will be shared with you will be included later this week.

Come September

The Local Authority is currently working on different models for schools for September which will be presented to Public Health. Although no one really knows what September will look like in schools yet, as this is dependent on the evidence and infection rates etc. over the next couple of months, we think it is very important for children both to celebrate this school year and also become familiar with staff etc. for next academic year. We are, therefore, busy planning and organising a range of opportunities to make sure your children's next steps are happy and successful ones, safely within the current health and safety guidance.

Transition will be different this year in all schools due to the restrictions to keep everyone safe. For example, as home visits and school classroom sessions cannot take place at the moment due the virus, we have planned other safe ways to support children and parents/carers so you all have the information you need before September. We are awaiting Public Health guidance before we are able to share our plans with you.

We will also, of course, keep you updated as soon as we find out any more about September from the government or Local Authority, including possible start dates for schools/year groups, whether schools will still need to limit numbers and operate in smaller 'bubble' groups etc.

Our priority will always be your children's safety and wellbeing, along with that of all members of our school community. We do very much want all our children back in school and miss them all very much, but this can only be when it is safe to do so. Until then, we will continue to do what we can to support both children at home and at school with the limited resources we have available to us.

Take care, stay safe and be kind to one another.

Mrs Bestall