



# Weekly Newsletter

Monday 7th September 2020

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

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

Dear parents/carers,

On behalf of the team here, we cannot tell you how lovely it is for the children to back in school again! Although school may be a little different from the place they left, your children have settled back into school fabulously well and we cannot tell you how proud we are of them. A big thank you to adults too as your support and understanding when following our one way system and staggered session times etc. is such a huge help!

## What we are doing to keep your child safe

Schools use protective bubbles to help manage risk. A bubble is a group of pupils who spend their day together, often with the same small group of staff. Children in the bubble spend time together having the same break and lunchtimes. They also use the following measures to stay safe:

- children and adults wash their hands regularly;
- all adults adhere to social distancing rules wherever possible (staff, parents, carers, essential visitors etc.). The government does not expect young children to socially distance due to their age, but we encourage them to keep their distance from others where we can. As this is difficult for young children, hygiene procedures and keeping each of our class bubble separate from one another are, therefore, important measures we need in place all the time to minimise risk in our school;
- staggered start and finish times and a one way system in the yard to help with the flow of pupils/parents and facilitate social distancing. Staggered lunch breaks and playtimes are also in place during the school day to avoid class bubbles coming into contact with one another;
- enhanced cleaning in classrooms/areas within the school. Resources can now be shared between members of a bubble (although children have their own pencil/pen/whiteboard etc. to use), but need to be cleaned thoroughly or stored for up to 72 hours before being used by another bubble;
- we actively encourage the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach to good respiratory hygiene;
- we will use contact tracing if there are positive cases of Covid-19.

To help protect each bubble, we have to go to great lengths to minimise contact between different class groups wherever possible at all times of the school day. As you can imagine, lunchtime is a little challenging as we have so many class bubbles and only a small dining hall. Consequently, we have decided to continue with a cold 'grab bag' option for the next couple of weeks at least until the new lunchtime routine is in place for all classes and the children have adapted to this (including our new F2 starters who do not start until later this week). The aim is to make lunchtimes as safe and calm as possible for the children, considering their ages and the logistics of our Victorian building, before reintroducing hot meals. We do hope to do this by half term at the very latest and thank you for your understanding.

## What you can do to help

There are a few things you can do to help keep everyone safe

### **1. School attendance**

- Attendance was excellent last week... well done Y1 and Y2!
- We need to minimise contact with individuals who are unwell. Those who have coronavirus symptoms (or who have someone in their household who does) cannot enter the school premises.
- Please contact the office on 2482360 if you have concerns about your child's attendance so we can put measures in place for families who need help.

## 2. Change of start/finish times

- School start and finish times are now different for each class bubble to help avoid contact between families and children.
- Please arrive on site promptly for your child's session time, but no more than 5 minutes before your child's start/end times to limit numbers on site, to avoid unnecessary groups gathering and to avoid contact between bubbles.
- Please avoid using public transport at key times for your own safety.

## 3. Safety on the yard at drop/off collection times

- As stated above, please arrive no more than 5 minutes before your child's start/end times.
- Keep your child/ren with you on the yard, and stay at least 2m away from other families and from classroom doors.
- Please do not use the picnic benches or climbing frames. These are not in use as they cannot be cleaned thoroughly between use.
- Only one adult per household please on the school site.
- In line with Sheffield guidance, staff do not need to wear face coverings in their own classrooms or outdoors. However, they are advised to wear them indoors in communal spaces and corridors. Any essential visitors into a school building will need to be by appointment only and they will be asked to wear a face covering to help protect the children and staff in that class bubble - this includes parents/carers. Please contact school by email, or by phoning 2482360, if you have any enquiries, and we will do our best to help you as parents/carers are not able to enter the building at the moment.
- All parents use the one system (drop off through Rotherham Road gate and leave via Station Road, and when collecting children please enter via Station Road and exit through the Rotherham Road gate). Please note—Nursery arrangements may be slightly different due to timings so a letter will be sent to you separately to confirm plans.

## 4. What happens if children or staff show symptoms at school

If anyone shows symptoms in school:

- they will be isolated immediately;
- once isolated, they will be looked after by a member of staff wearing PPE;
- they will be sent home as soon as possible.

## 5. If there is a positive case of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

**If a pupil or staff member tests positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19):**

- We will inform Public Health England (PHE) and our Public Health Team in Sheffield;
- Public Health England will then provide advice, and close contacts may be asked to isolate (please maintain 2m+ social distancing with others to avoid being a contact);
- We will work with Public Health England and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process;
- We will follow local health protection team advice to help manage/contain any outbreak or confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst the school community.

### **If there are multiple cases**

If there are two or more positive cases, or a high reported absence from school which is suspected to be Coronavirus (COVID-19) related, we will notify Public Health England and the Public Health team in Sheffield. It will work with school, undertaking a risk assessment with the Head to identify direct or close contacts in the school (those in the child's bubble) who will need to self-isolate at home for 14 days.

## **6. What to do if your child or a household member develops symptoms**

If your child or anyone in your household develops symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19):

- your household should isolate immediately, and you should book a test for anyone with symptoms at [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or by calling 119;
- your child should not attend school, but please notify us of the reason for absence;
- if your child has a positive result you should notify school and your child should isolate for 10 days;
- members of your household should isolate for 14 days;
- if your child is not a known contact of a confirmed case he/she can return to school if the result is negative, provided they feel well and they have not had a fever for 48 hours;
- if your child is a contact of a confirmed case he/she must stay off school for the 14-day isolation period, even if testing negative. This is because the infection can develop at any point up to day 14.

If you have questions about any of the information above, please ring 2482360 and speak to us directly, or email us on [enquiries@halfway-inf.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@halfway-inf.sheffield.sch.uk). All enquiries will be responded to as soon as we can within office hours.

### **Quick reminder of upcoming 'Dates for the Diary'!**

#### **Monday 7th Sept to Wednesday 9th Sept**

- F2 children attend pre-booked morning and afternoon sessions to help build confidence and time in school
- Nursery - pre-booked 'Stay and Play' sessions.

#### **Wednesday 9th Sept**

- 4pm - Y1 and Y2 'Meet the Teacher' Zoom Meeting/s after school for parents/carers (links to be sent out).

#### **Thursday 10th Sept**

- F2 children in Group 1 start school full time (F2 start dates have already been shared with parents/carers).
- Existing Nursery children start attending their normal sessions.

#### **Friday 11th Sept**

- F2 children in Group 2 start school full time (F2 start dates have already been shared with parents/carers).

#### **Monday 14th Sept**

- New Nursery children to start Nursery, using a staggered approach to support our youngest learners.

\*If we feel your child may need a more gradual and personalised transition than the above approach, staff will already have contacted you to discuss this.

## **Breakfast and Afterschool arrangements**

Breakfast Club and Superkids After School Club are both now operating again, with Breakfast Club now starting at 7:45 am on a temporary basis whilst staggered start/end times need to be in place in school. All bookings MUST be made in advance please via Jenette on 2470564 as we need to staff and arrange resources etc. for the different bubbles of children using our extended services. We also need an accurate record in case we need to contact anyone following Contact Tracing procedures.

Please complete a booking form each week (any previous bookings made prior to September will no longer be held as we need up to date information of childcare needs and contact details etc. for the current school year).

Parents/carers dropping children off at Breakfast Club—please use the Station Road Gate to drop children off before 8am (NB—the one way system starts at 8am). Please observe social distancing on the narrow pathways around school.

Parents/carers collecting children from Superkids after school will again need to use the Station Road gate and come to the back door of school at your collection time, and then telephone to inform staff you have arrived (NB—the one way system ceases at 3:30pm when all children/parents are off site). We will put a sign on the back door of school with the Superkids phone number on for you to contact us when you arrive and we are able to bring your child to you at the back door.

## **Quick reminder about school start/end times**

Staggered start and end times are now in place for each class bubble group to minimise numbers on the school yard, and to help everyone to socially distance (these arrangements are in place for the foreseeable future, although we believe they are only temporary at this stage of the pandemic). I want to say a massive thank you here to parents/carers as your support has been amazing over the past few days as we have introduced this!

Why are staggered start/end times important? The recent evidence reinforces the importance of social distancing between adults to limit the risk of infection now schools are fully open, so it is vital that measures are in place to manage this at collection and drop off times. We ask you to wait outside your child's classroom a couple of minutes before your child's start/end time, adhere to social distancing measures (markings are on the fences and on narrow paths to help with this) and politely ask you to leave site as soon as you have dropped off/collected your child.

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

With kindest regards, and a massive thank you again for your support so far! Your children have been real super stars over the past few days and are taking all the changes in their stride. We are so incredibly proud of them, and are absolutely thrilled to have them back with us in school!

**Paula Bestall**

**Headteacher**