



Ecclesfield Primary School

High Street
Ecclesfield
SHEFFIELD
S35 9UD

Tel: 0114 2467396

E-mail: enquiries@ecclesfield-pri.sheffield.sch.uk

Executive Head: L Chadwick

3rd March 2026

Y2 Florence Nightingale - Friday 24th April 2026

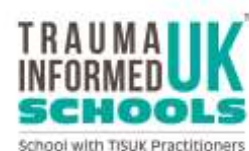
Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of our history unit of work about the Florence Nightingale in the Spring term, we have arranged for the History Van to visit our school on Friday 24th April 2026. The History Van is an external agency run by experienced history teachers who provide hands on experiences linked to the national curriculum.

During the visit, the children will explore the life and work of Florence Nightingale and discover what medicine and healthcare were like in the past. Through hands-on activities, artefacts and games, they will learn about health, hygiene, medicine and superstition in Victorian times. They will hear about Florence's connections to Matlock and Sheffield and help her pack her basket with items such as leeches and onions to take on visits to the sick. The children will also make their own herbal 'cures' using pestles and mortars and create herb bags to ward off illness.

They will then 'set sail' for the Crimea and role play life in the Nursing Tent at Scutari, acting as soldiers and nurses as they help Florence care for wounded soldiers. Using artefacts, they will clean the ward, tend to patients and experience what nursing was like during the Crimean War. The children will also use dip pens to write letters to Lord Sidney Herbert requesting supplies for the hospital.

The children will return to the local spa towns of the Peak District and the Turkish Baths of Sheffield to learn about hydros and spas as popular Victorian medical treatments. They will explore original and



replica artefacts to understand why these were considered important for health. They will use hammers and Sheffield toolmakers' punches to create cutlery as a thank you gift for Florence and prepare a 'Welcome Home' celebration, discovering the lasting impact she had on the history of nursing.

They will also learn about other significant figures in public health at the time, including Mary Seacole and Edwin Chadwick.

Both Year 2 classes will be taking part in all sessions on Friday 24th April at a cost of £6.10 per child. This money will pay for the expert and the materials used in the sessions. Please ensure this contribution paid via the **ParentPay** offer entitled "**Florence Workshop**" by **11.59pm on Friday 17th April 2026**.

Whilst we ask for voluntary contributions for educational visits, it is because there is a genuine need for the contribution to make the visit viable. The school is very grateful for all the support that you give. However, when insufficient contributions have been made to allow a visit to go ahead, our already fragile budgets have been further stretched to support the visit.

Unfortunately, we can no longer sustain this situation going forward. In future, any shortfall will have to be responded to with cancellation of visits if insufficient contributions are made.

Thank you

Miss Barrett, Mrs Hill and Mrs Wilson

