



Laurel Avenue Community Primary School

0191 3868416



Newsletter

September 2018



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back from all the staff at Laurel Avenue Community Primary School. We hope that you all had a fantastic summer break. It has been wonderful to see the children coming through the doors each morning as the new school year begins. We are very happy to have welcomed some new faces into school and we look forward to working closely with you. Thank you, as ever, for your efforts in ensuring that your children are smart and in full school uniform and black shoes.

We are really happy that there have been no staffing changes this year so we're all ready and enthusiastic about an exciting year ahead! As in previous years, we will continue to have a big drive on reading, writing and maths skills and we would appreciate your support with this as we strive to ensure that the children have an early focus on spelling, punctuation, grammar and reading as well as counting and calculation skills. We are currently preparing lots of opportunities for you to come into school to learn more about what your child learns in school and how you can help them to learn at home.

The first workshop is actually taking place on September 11th, 2.15 – 3.15 pm. This is an online safety workshop delivered by O2/NSPCC which will help to keep you up to date with how to keep your child safe online. We need at least 15 parents/carers for the workshop to go ahead so I really hope to see lots of you attend. You can actually bring your devices along to the session to receive direct help. If you can't find the letter that came home on Tuesday with the reply slip attached, please call the office to let us know you would like to attend. Thank you.

It is our aim to beat the highest attendance rate we have achieved which was 96.9% in 2015 – 2016. We have been so close the last few years but have never managed to achieve over 97.0% ... yet! Let's go for it this year!

Thank you all in anticipation of your support for the forthcoming year. By hearing your child read regularly, supporting them with homework, attending parents' evenings and ensuring that they have their reading bag, PE kit and homework ready in school, you will really help your child to feel more confident and achieve the success they deserve.

As always, please check our website, feel free to stop by my office, or contact me at any time via phone or e-mail if I can be of assistance. I always appreciate parents and carers taking the time to come and see me or call the office to discuss all issues, however big or small. I look forward to working with you all again this year.

Gaynor Davison
Headteacher



FREE childcare

From
September
2017



for **working parents**

of 3 and 4 year olds for up to 30 hours a week

Find out if you are eligible at

www.durham.gov.uk/earlyyears



If you think that you are eligible, and you would like to extend your child's education in our nursery to 30 hours, please visit www.durham.gov.uk/earlyyears to find out.

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> will also help you to find out more information.

*If eligible, you will receive a code which you will need to bring to the office, together with your National Insurance Number and your child's date of birth. We will need to validate your code with Durham County Council before a place can be offered. You will need to complete and sign a parental declaration form to allow this and other checks to be carried out through the new online system. **Our School Nursery does take children for the full 30 hours so please make enquiries at the office or with Mrs Lawson, to discuss this. Thank you.***

LED Lighting

We are thrilled to be able to announce that we have had new LED lighting installed across the whole of school over the first few weeks of the summer holidays. The hall, corridors, all classrooms, Community Centre, everywhere is looking amazing!!!

This lighting will help with improved visibility. LED lights start up instantly with no warm up time and no flickering or humming.



LED lighting creates a healthier and happy environment. The LED lighting spectrum mimics that of natural sunlight and has been shown to improve cognition, concentration, headaches and mood.

Let's not forget a reduction of our CO2 omissions - therefore saving the planet!

Looking forward to seeing you all a lot more brightly this term!!

Harrogate and District 
NHS Foundation Trust

This year Public Health England have advised that the flu programme will be delivered to children in **Reception, Years 1,2,3,4 and 5.**

The programme will take place in Laurel Avenue on Thursday 15th November 2018 during the afternoon.

This year there will be an electronic consent process. We will inform you of the link and webpage via the text service soon, once this link has been released.

If you have any questions about this programme or any other health related questions, please get in touch with our School Nurse:

Claire Birks - 03000 264336



Great News!

*Laurel Avenue has
achieved GOLD in the
School Games Mark
for the second year
running!!!*

The Sainsbury's School Games Mark is a Government led awards scheme which rewards schools for their commitment to the development of PE, sport and competition across their school.

We were assessed against the following criteria:

Commitment to a minimum of 2 hours of physical education per week

- Participation in intra-school competitions (within school)*
- Participation in inter-school competitions (external competitions)*
- Leadership schemes*
- Extra-curricular clubs*
- Promotion of external providers*
- Provision in place to develop 'Gifted and Talented' children*
- Promotion of results and reports for newsletters/website*
- Continued Professional Development of school staff to support PE*

*We are very proud of this award and of our children's achievements
and look forward to another great year full of sport and fun!*

*This award is difficult to achieve due to the high level of commitment
needed, especially within a small school such as ours, so we are
extremely thrilled and proud! Well done everyone!*

Meet NED!

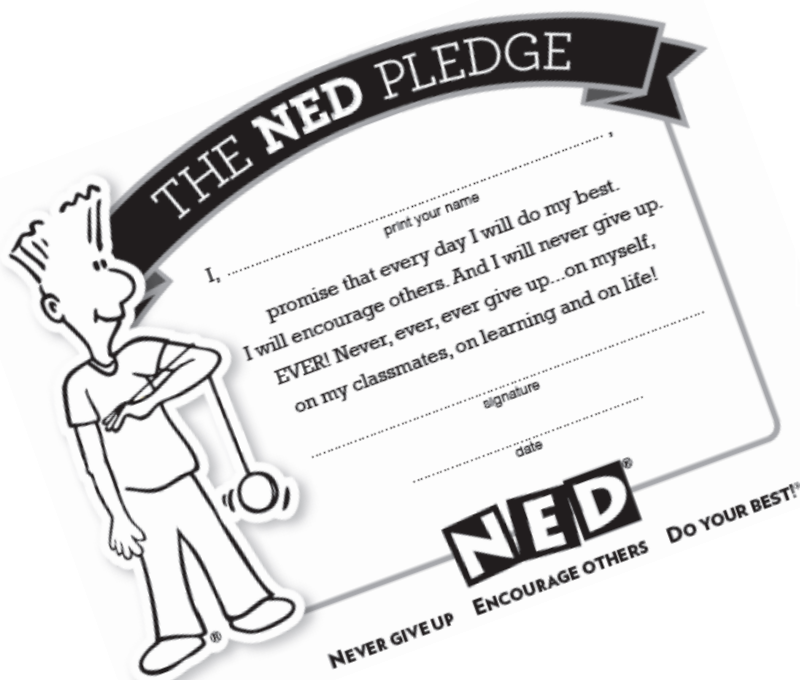
It's a good time to inform new families and remind everyone else that we are a NED School!
NED is a loveable cartoon character whose name is an acronym for

Never give up
Encourage others
Do your best



We use Ned's very important message throughout school to promote kindness and excellent progress for all children.

We hope that you will use this message at home too!



We will all be taking the NED pledge this week!



School Uniform *We have items of uniform and PE kits in school for you to buy if needed. Please see Mrs Ferguson or Mrs Angus in the school office if you would like to make any purchases.*

Reminder about our School uniform...

Plain black or plain grey skirt, pinafore or trousers

Bottle green sweatshirt or cardigan

White or bottle green polo shirt

Bottle green/white summer dress

Dark coloured shoes only. Please do not wear brightly coloured/white trainers or laces. This is not acceptable uniform. Thank you.

Hair bows. We really do like the smart hairstyles with bows that more and more children are wearing. We would like to ask that these are limited to small and medium sized bows in school colours only. Thank you.

Please, please, please write your child's name in all their uniform, coat and PE kit. Thank you.

PE Kits

All children from Reception to Year 6 need a PE kit in school, including black plimsolls.



PE kit consists of dark green, black or dark blue shorts, a white or dark green t-shirt and black plimsolls.

PE Days for September

Please keep a note of when your child will need their PE kit in school

Class 1: Monday and Wednesday

Class 2: Wednesday and Thursday

Class 3: Tuesday (PE kit) and Thursday (swimming kit)

Class 4: Monday and Tuesday

We recommend children bring their PE kits into school every Monday & leave them on their pegs for the week, bringing them home every Friday.



Each term, as well as receiving a topic sheet, parents/carers of children in Class 2, 3 and 4 will also receive a curriculum sheet which will show you how we are meeting the requirements of the curriculum as well as the needs and interests of your child. They are available on the website too. Please keep it safe and work through the plan with your child as they progress through their topic.

You received both the topic and curriculum information for this term's topics last term. Look on the website if you need a new copy or ask your child's teacher.

Class 1 – Traditional Rhymes

Class 2 – Fire! Fire!

Class 3 – From Stone to Iron

Class 4 – Britain at War

Our main drivers for our curriculum are - Ambition and Possibilities, Life-skills and Enterprise and Knowledge and Understanding of the World. These areas underpin the whole curriculum which we have developed and help to ensure that children leaving Laurel Avenue Community Primary School are well prepared for their continuing education and life as adults. A copy of the drivers is on the next page in this newsletter as a reminder so you can also help your child to achieve these at home.

If you have any questions regarding the curriculum, topics or the curriculum drivers please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or Ms Davison.

*If you did not receive an overview or curriculum sheet in July,
please ask your child's teacher for another copy or find them
on the website*

- <http://www.laurelavenue.durham.sch.uk/Curriculum>



Key Drivers for our Curriculum

Our curriculum is planned around a series of themes that maximise cross-curricular links whilst ensuring there is a clear development in the learning of key skills. As a school we believe that there are three 'curriculum drivers' that personalise our curriculum and develop the whole child in order to prepare them for life beyond Primary School. These have been chosen through consultation with staff and governors, identifying the needs and interests of all of our children.

Ambition and Possibilities



- To have a life-long love of learning that inspires them to look to the future
- To have high expectations of themselves and their future
- To recognise opportunities beyond the local community
- To increase knowledge of different career choices
- To develop self-confidence and a 'have a go' attitude

Process:

- Planning to ensure opportunities to raise children's self-belief and develop a positive attitude towards risk and challenge
- Focus on ambition, identifying different jobs and possibilities through topics, visits and visitors; role models for success
- Regular opportunities to work as a team, especially Key Stage 2

Life-Skills and Enterprise



- To develop questioning and research skills, applying to a range of hands-on learning experiences
- To work effectively as a team to organise themselves and create an end product
- To work independently and be organised and ready for learning
- To listen and communicate with others
- To complete set tasks in a given period and not give up
- To have excellent attendance
- To think 'creatively' to solve problems
- To be equipped for life beyond Primary School

Process:

- Opportunities for learning through each of the 5 learning skills – reflective, relationships, resilient, resourceful and risk taking will be provided
- Through each topic, children will have opportunities, through a wider range of skills based lessons, to take ownership of their learning and direct it more
- Wider opportunities for learning beyond the curriculum to equip children with relevant life skills; health and economic well-being, cooking, e-safety
- Encouraged expectation that children attend school and are ready to learn with appropriate equipment and kit and take responsibility to be ready and prepared

Knowledge and Understanding



of the World

- To experience opportunities that broaden their horizons
- To enhance their insight into the community and world by providing meaningful learning opportunities
- To celebrate/appreciate diversity and culture at national and international level
- To widen general knowledge
- To give opportunities to pursue their own lines of enquiry

Process:

- Using the 'news flash' feature of Espresso and First News newspapers to keep in touch with current issues
- Providing opportunities through visits, local exploration and the use of visitors to ask questions and explore the diversity of people, society, culture
- Discussing local and global issues and the impact that they have
- Asking questions and research historical events in the local and wider communities

Underpinning everything we do in school is a relentless focus on the acquisition of **basic skills**, for without the ability to read and write and apply basic mathematical concepts to problems, children will be unable to access any other form of learning

School Council Election 2018

We will be holding elections in school for School Councillors on **Wednesday 19th September**, where two representatives from each year group will be voted onto the School Council for the year.

If your child wishes to stand for election they need to have two nominations from either other pupils or adults and complete the nomination form by **Monday 10th September**. They will then be able to create campaign posters and speak to their classmates about why they would like to be a School Councillor.

To help your child prepare, we sent home a job description and a writing template to help them prepare a short speech for children in Years 3 - 6.

The School Council plays an important role in the pupil voice within the school and we strongly believe in the British Value of Democracy and hope you will discuss this opportunity with your child and support them if they wish to stand for election.

If you would like any further details, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or Mrs Walters.



Attendance

We were happy with our whole school attendance for 2017 – 18 which was **96.3%!** This is just above the national average for primary school children. Thank you to all parents and carers who really work with us to make sure that their children are in school every day. This is something we are really passionate about and we look forward to seeing our attendance percentage even higher next year!



Here are some reminders about important attendance issues. We like to give you as much information as possible about such important issues as attendance so that you are well informed. School follows Government Policy and works very closely with all the local Primary Schools to ensure that we are all following these policies consistently.

Holidays in Term Time

Family holidays should not be booked during school time.

If parents/carers decide to take a holiday or extended leave in term time, the school will request that Children's Services issue a Penalty Notice under section 444 of the Education Act 1996.



The penalty notice is £60 per parent per child if paid within 28 days and £120 per parent per child if paid after 28 days but within 42 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in prosecution in the Magistrates Court.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN LEGISLATION from 2016:

When a child has more than 14 sessions (7 days as each day = 2 sessions) of unauthorised absence in a twelve week period, this will result in a warning being given and the issue of a fixed penalty notice and referral to the Educational Welfare Service.



Medical Issues

Medical and dental appointments should be made **out of school time** except those children who we know have a medical care plan.



If hospital appointments have to be made in school time, appointment cards/letters must be submitted to school one week prior to the appointment and copies will be kept on your child's file. If the appointment is later in the morning, or afternoon, please bring your child into school first and then collect them to take to the appointment.



If your child has a lot of short absences due to minor illnesses, school will ask the school nurse to offer support to your family. If there are a number of regular incidences of absences due to illness, then we will request that you provide medical evidence for every absence. Without this evidence, your child's attendance will be marked as unauthorised. Children don't tend to be ill consistently unless there is a reason and in such cases where there is a reason, there will be no problems giving school medical evidence so that the absences will not be recorded as unauthorised.



Persistent Absentees

As you know, The Department for Education deems the threshold for Persistent Absence to be 10%. This means that if your child's attendance falls below 90%, they will be classified as a persistent absentee. So if they are absent from school for around 19 days or more across the year, they will meet this classification.



Only 95% and above is acceptable as an absolute minimum.

It is our aim to beat the highest attendance rate we have ever achieved which was 96.9% in 2015 – 2016.

Let's go for over 97.0% this year!

Punctuality

All children should be on the playground for the bell ringing at 9.00 am. Children coming into school via the front door (after the bell has rung) will be logged daily and attendance procedures will be triggered if this is a frequent event. We will arrange meetings to establish why punctuality is an issue and what we can do to help you to get your child to school on time.

Our lessons start right at the beginning of the day, so children late in are missing the start of their lesson. Ten minutes late a day is 50 minutes of maths lost a week which really mounts up over the year.



Whilst these sanctions may sound quite harsh, it is in line with most schools in the country. Our consistent message to you, as parents/carers, is that "Every Day Counts" and that high attendance is essential in order to ensure that all our children achieve their full potential.



Let's work hard together to achieve even higher than attendance for 2017 – 18 which was 96.3%! We're going for over 97.0%!!

I hope that you will support the school in this matter, as we are all concerned to see children fulfil their potential at school. I am sure you will agree that this can best be achieved by avoiding unnecessary absence. Our door is always open if you would like to discuss any issues including attendance and we will always do our best to help you and your family.

If you need any support with attendance or punctuality please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you.

OUTSTANDING	100% – 99%	
GOOD	98% – 97%	
SATISFACTORY	96% – 95%	2 SCHOOL WEEKS OF LOST LEARNING
UNSATISFACTORY	94% – 90%	4 SCHOOL WEEKS OF LOST LEARNING
TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE	89% – 76%	8 SCHOOL WEEKS OF LOST LEARNING
NEGLECT	75% – 70%	12 SCHOOL WEEKS OF LOST LEARNING

School Admissions

The Durham County Council online admission site at <https://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> will open on September 12th 2018. Applications for admission to Reception for September 2019 and Secondary School for September 2019 must be received by the deadlines shown in the tables below. There is also an online brochure if you would like further information about the process and available schools which is found on the Durham County Website, as well as our own.

<http://www.laurelavenue.durham.sch.uk/Admission-Arrangements>

If you do not have internet access please come into school and we can either help you to use a school computer to make your application or print you a paper copy of the brochure and application form.

Timetable for applying for Primary School places for September 2019

Children born between the 1st September 2014 and the 31st August 2015 will be eligible for admission to the Reception class in September 2019.

Everybody has to apply for a place in Reception, even if your child is currently in Nursery.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Stage in application process</i>
<i>12 September 2018</i>	<i>Applications open</i>
<i>15 January 2019</i>	<i>Closing date for applications</i>
<i>16 April 2019</i>	<i>Offers made</i>
<i>30 April 2019</i>	<i>Deadline for parents to accept the offer of a school place</i>
<i>From 7 May 2019</i>	<i>You can ask for your child's name to be added to a school waiting list for 2019/2020</i>

Timetable for applying for Secondary School places for September 2019

<i>Date</i>	<i>Stage in application process</i>
<i>12 September 2018</i>	<i>Applications open</i>
<i>31 October 2018</i>	<i>Closing date for applications</i>
<i>1 March 2019</i>	<i>Offers made</i>
<i>15 March 2019</i>	<i>Deadline for parents to accept the offer of a school place</i>
<i>From 25 March 2019</i>	<i>You can ask for your child's name to be added to a school waiting list for 2019/2020</i>

Durham School Place and Admissions: 03000 265896

Phone Numbers If you have a new mobile phone and changed your number, please ensure you send any new numbers into school so we can update our records. This is essential both for receiving texts and notifications but also for contacting you should any emergencies arise within school. **Thanks!**



School Meals 2018 – 2019

*Meals for Infant children (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) are free again this year. Meals for all other children will be **£2.05** per day from September.*

*Please send all money in a named and sealed envelope or money bag.
Thank you.*



NSPCC Free Online Safety Workshop for Parents & Carers

We're here to help you keep your child safe online.

O2 and the NSPCC have joined forces on a mission to help all children and their families in the UK stay safe online. Together, they're offering useful tools, support and guidance to help parents and carers have frequent conversations with their children about their online lives.

We would like to invite all parents, carers or family members to a free online safety workshop at Laurel Avenue Community Primary School at 2.15 – 3.15 pm on 11th September. The content covered in the workshops is aimed at adults. Parents with children are advised to arrange childcare if possible.

The hour-long workshop will help parents, carers and other adults understand their child's online world, build confidence to have those important conversations that can help keep children safe online and help you know where to go for help and advice.

"After coming to this workshop today, I realise the importance of having conversations with my child rather than avoid the subject. I didn't know there were things I could do to make it better, I'm so glad I came to this workshop. I will definitely be calling the helpline or going into store to get some help, thank you." – Parent who attended the workshop

Don't miss out on this great opportunity.

Until then, if you need any support or guidance about keeping children safe online, here are a few things you could do:

Visit the NSPCC webpages: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Call the free O2 NSPCC Online Safety Helpline on 0808 800 5002

Download the Net Aware app on the App Store or Google Play

Pop into an O2 store for online safety help from a Guru – don't have to be an O2 customer!

Sign up to the icebreaker email series - <https://nspcc.o2.co.uk/>

We need a minimum of 15 adults in order for the workshop to take place so please pop this date in your diary and come along!

All family members are welcome!

Keeping Safe Online

'Internet Matters' is an app designed to help parents/carers talk about online safety issues with their children, and to ensure that they make smart choices to stay safe online. It is aimed at children aged between 8-10.

Split-screen collaborative app helps children to think about what they would do if they were faced with different situations online; from cyberbullying to sharing content with someone they don't know.

Quizzes and games encourage parents/carers and children to collaborate and talk about 9 different e-safety subjects.

Download the tablet-only app for free:



Fortnite

The craze for Fortnite, especially its multiplayer standalone mode Fortnite Battle Royale, has exploded recently especially amongst children.

Fortnite is rated 12+ for its frequent scenes of mild violence, meaning it is deemed unsuitable for children under the age of 12. As with all games of this type, children younger than 12 are engaging with the game. Therefore, it is important that parents/carers are aware of all the safety concerns around Fortnite and so can facilitate safer gameplay for their children.

Find out more here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/fortnite-everything-you-need-know-about-online-game>

Week beginning Monday 10th September

8.30 – 9.00 am Early Birds Intervention Groups by invitation

Homework Club (Wednesdays 3.00 – 4.00 pm): Everyone Welcome – 20 places available in KS1 and KS2 clubs

KS1 Science Club (Thursdays 3.00 – 4.00 pm): Science Club takes 8 children at one time on first come first served basis.

There will be a second group after half term.



Please watch out for letters.

Watch out for information about more
After School Clubs starting later in the term.

Laurel Avenue Community Centre

The centre will re-open on Monday 3rd September.

Youth sessions will resume on Monday 10th September.

Monday: Laurel United Youth Group 5 – 7 pm
(For children aged 11 – 18 years)

Tuesday: Junior Youth Club (Children aged 5 – 11 years)
Tea Club – 3 pm until 4 pm Youth Session 4 pm – 5.30 pm

Tuesday: LA All Star's Rehearsal 6.00 – 8.00 pm

Thursday: Toddler Session 9 am until 11 am
(Children aged 0 – 5 years)

Thursday: Lunch Club 12 pm until 2 pm Cost: £3.00
Included is a two course hot meal and activities.
Taxi service now available.
Please contact Claire to book transport.

Tel: 0191-3845427 Mobile: 07825956094

Email: Claire-laCa@hotmail.co.uk

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 6th September: Let's Get Cooking starts

Week beginning Monday 10th September: 8.30 – 9.00 am 'Early Birds' intervention groups, Laurel Learners Homework Club (Wednesdays 3.00 – 4.00 pm) and KS1 Science Club (Thursdays 3.00 – 4.00 pm) start, please watch out for letters during the first week of term

Tuesday 11th September: NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Assembly.

Sponsor Forms will come home this day for Buddy's Big Workout

Tuesday 11th September: NSPCC Workshop for Class 4

Tuesday 11th September, 2.15 – 3.15 pm: O2 parents workshop – E safety plus bring devices if need help with settings etc.

Wednesday 12th September: Individual and Family Photographs

You have received a letter this week about your photograph choices. Please call the office if you did not receive a form.

All choices to be made by Monday 10th September please.

Monday 17th September: Election Day for School Council

Wednesday 19th September: School Council announced

Friday 21st September: Class 3 Tri Golf Festival, Cochrane Lodge, Houghton-Le-Spring

Wednesday 26th September, am: Year 2 Multi Skills Festival, Framwellgate Moor Comprehensive

Wednesday 26th September, 6.00 pm: LA All Stars Greatest Show at Belmont Comprehensive. See Claire Linfoot for tickets.

Friday 28th September, 3.15pm: Macmillan Coffee Afternoon (No Star Assembly)

Monday 1st October: Text sent out to book Parents' Evening 15/16th October. Please contact the office if you need us to book your meeting.

Friday 5th October: Last day to bring NSPCC Sponsor Money in, thank you

Friday 12th October, 9.30 am: Harvest Festival

Wb 15th October: My Money Week

16th October: Young Enterprise Money workshops for Classes 2,3 and 4

Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th October, 3.30 – 6.00 pm: Parents' Evening Reception – Year 6

Wednesday 17th October: Open Day for Nursery

Monday 22nd – Friday 26th October: Half Term Holiday

Dates for your Diary

Monday 29th October: Back to school

Monday 12th – Friday 16th November: Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 12th November: Fire Fighter Clothing Collection; information sent closer to date

Wednesday 14th November: Anti-Bullying Awareness Raising Day

Thursday 15th November: Nasal Flu Spray for children

Reception – Year 5

Friday 16th November: Children in Need Day

Wednesday 28th November: Non Uniform Day for Chocolate Donation

Monday 3rd December, 1.30 – 3.00 pm: Christmas Fayre

Friday 7th December, 10.00 am: Nursery and Reception Christmas Production

Friday 14th December, 10.00 am: Class 2 Christmas Production

Wednesday 19th December, 10.00 am: Classes 3 and 4 Christmas Production

Thursday 20th December, pm: Nursery and Reception Party for all Nursery children

Friday 21st December, 9.15 am: Christmas Sing-a-long
(No Star Assembly)

Friday 21st December, pm: Christmas Disco for Year 1 – Year 6

Friday 21st December: End of Term

Spring Term starts Tuesday 8th January 2019

IMPORTANT



Year 6 Key Stage 2 SATS: 13th May – 16th May 2019

Year 2 Key stage 1 Assessment Period:

Month of May 2019

Year 1 Phonics Tests will take place during the week
beginning June 10th 2019

Laurel Avenue Community Primary School

Please keep this information for future reference

School Holidays 2018/2019

Holiday	Closing Date	Date Re-open for Teaching Purposes
Summer 2018 (6 weeks 1 day)	Friday 20 th July 2018	Tuesday 4 th September 2018
Autumn Half-Term 2018 (1 week)	Friday 19 th October 2018	Monday 29 th October 2018
Teacher Training Day (1 day)	Thursday 22 nd November 2018	Monday 26 th November 2018
Christmas 2018 (2 weeks 1 day)	Friday 21 st December 2018	Tuesday 8 th January 2019
Spring Half-Term 2019 (1 week)	Friday 15 th February 2019	Monday 25 th February 2019
Easter 2019 (2 weeks 1 day)	Friday 5 th April 2019	Tuesday 23 rd April 2019
May Day 2019 (1 day)	Friday 3 rd May 2019	Tuesday 7 th May 2019
Summer Half Term 2019 (1 week)	Friday 24 th May 2019	Monday 3 rd June 2019
Summer 2019	Friday 19 th July 2019	To be determined

These dates only relate to
Laurel Avenue Community Primary School.
Each school in the area may have slightly different closing and re-opening dates.