




This year our children treated us to a collection of songs, readings and a poem...

Let's Celebrate Harvest!

It was wonderful to see them singing so beautifully and delivering such thoughtful messages.



 *Thank you for all your kind donations for our Harvest Table. All donations will go to support Food Bank this year.*



Thank you also to FOLAS and everyone who supported the raffle.







A huge thank you to our wonderful FOLAS —
Friends of Laurel Avenue School.

It's great to be able to get fund raising for
school again. It was amazing to raise £82 in
30 minutes at the Harvest Festival with the



raffle and refreshments.

Thank you to Tesco for
donating some brilliant
raffle prizes!



We would love to welcome some
more parents and carers to
join FOLAS and take part in
school fundraising activities.



Speak to Ms Davison or any teacher. Thanks!

Reading is so important!

Reading is the **KEY** to learning

Children who read often and widely get better at it.

Reading improves concentration.

Children have to sit still and quietly so that they can focus on the story when they are reading. If they read often, they will develop the skill to do this for longer.

Reading teaches children about the world around them.

Through reading a variety of books, children learn about people, places, and events outside of their own experience.

Reading improves vocabulary and language skills.

Children learn new words as they read. Subconsciously, they absorb information on how to structure sentences and how to use words and other language features effectively in their writing and speaking.

Reading develops a child's imagination.

As we read and are engaged in a story we are also imagining how a character is feeling. Young children then bring this knowledge into their everyday play.

Reading helps children to develop empathy.

As children develop they begin to imagine how they would feel in that situation.

Reading is fun!

Reading is a great way to spend time together. Reading together on the sofa, bedtimes stories and visiting the library are just some ways of spending time together.

Children who read achieve better in school.

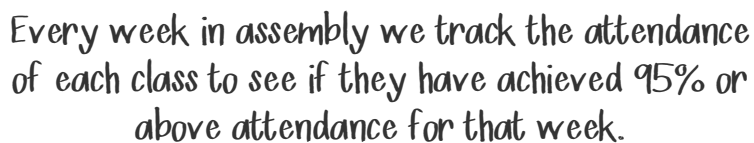
Reading promotes achievement in all subjects, not just English.

Children who are good readers tend to achieve better across the curriculum.

BENEFITS OF READING



Dream
Big
READ!



Just like Monopoly, there are prizes built into the game for classes to win. So far, Class 4 were thrilled to receive a sweet snack and they are also able to play a class game such as bingo.

All children have to do to roll the dice is come to school every day. Let's see if every class can roll the dice next half term!





Whole school attendance is currently

94.9%

We really need to make sure we can raise this figure to over 96%.

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.

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 Attendance Intervention Team.

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.

Punctuality

All children should have entered school by 9.00 am. School gates opens at 8.50 am and will be locked at 9.05 am. Children coming into school via the main school entrance (after 9.05 am when the gates have been closed) will be logged daily and attendance procedures will be triggered if this is a frequent event. Children will be recorded as late if they arrive in class after 9.10 am. 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.

Every Day Counts. High attendance is essential in order to ensure that all our children achieve their full potential.

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



Earlier in the term we spent time reflecting about the sad news of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

We gathered around our special Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Tree, growing in our grounds as we were selected to be the Durham City Primary School to be awarded this privilege.

We placed flowers by her tree and reflected on her impact on so many lives.





Thank you, for our Queen, Elizabeth II.

Her smile lit up the world.

Her sense of fun and thoughtful words helped people to stay strong and forget their troubles.

We give you thanks for her love and care, her dedication and her duty

to her family and her country, to the Commonwealth of Nations and other countries of the world.

Help us to follow her example and, in days to come, remember that we are part of a worldwide family and that we, too, can seek to play our part.





Firefighters from Durham Green Watch visited school to give an important bonfire night safety talk to Class 4.

STAY SAFE

They are returning to school in November for a very special and exciting mission.

Keep an eye out on FaceBook!



Balance and Pedal Bikes

Class I have been
impressing us with their
bike balancing and riding
skills! Look at how
fantastic they are!



We are so
proud of you all!



Why not look on our
FaceBook page and
see videos of the
children on the bikes.

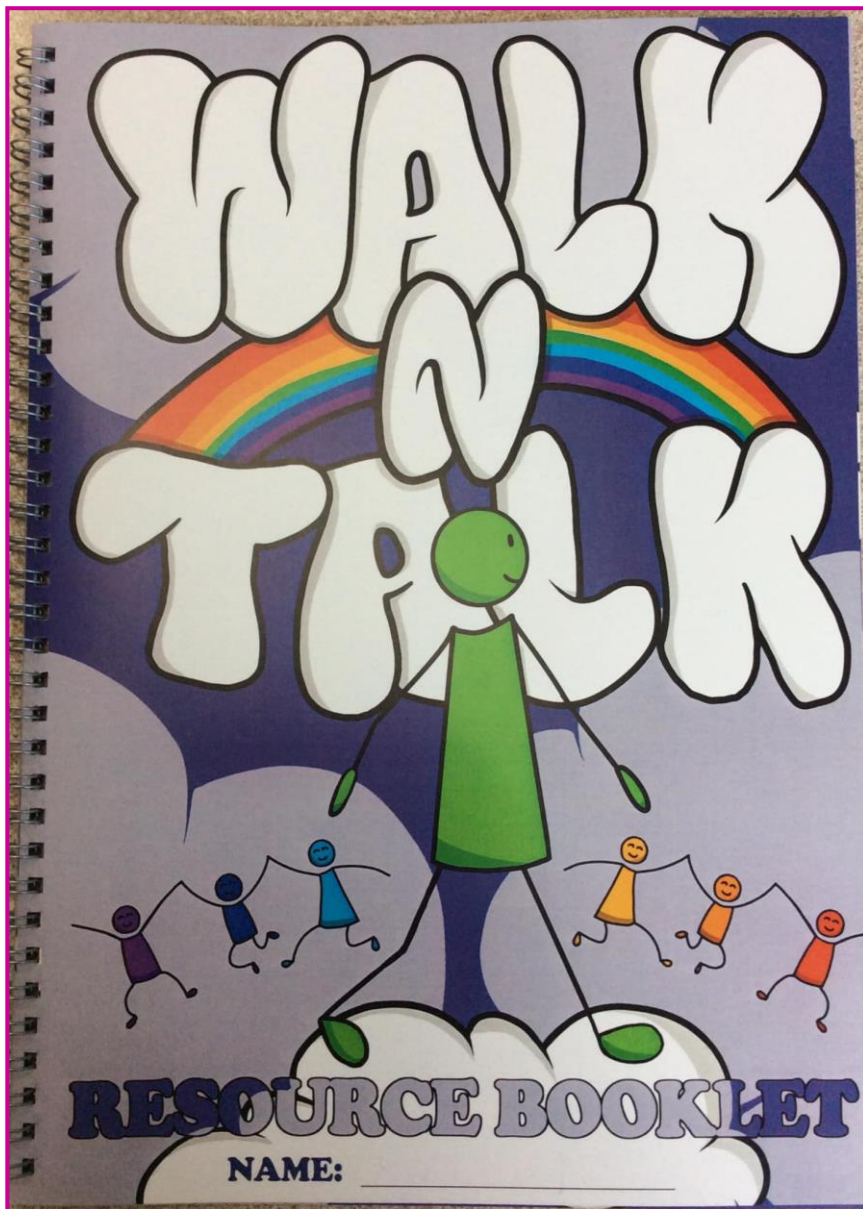


Class I have been reading the story
"We're going on a bear hunt". They made
some bear masks and binoculars and went
on a bear hunt to see if they could find any
bears! Luckily, they didn't but
Hollie and Zara found a bear paw print!
Ask your child to tell you the story at home.



**WE'RE GOING ON
A BEAR HUNT**





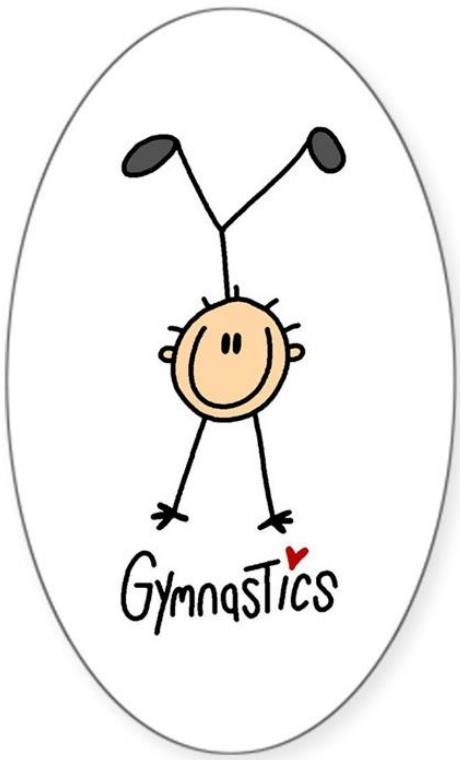
Class 4W have enjoyed weekly sessions of the 'Walk and Talk' programme. The programme is weekly for 6 weeks and is designed to support children with adjusting to life after the COVID-19 pandemic.





Through each of the carefully designed sessions, children will look at both physical and mental well-being to support their progress in school. The first session was truly inspirational as they had the pleasure of welcoming Invictus Games athlete Alex Dewar into school. Alex shared his incredible story of how physical activity and a strong mental attitude were key to helping him overcome enormous challenges when he suffered a brain haemorrhage which changed his life forever. We all felt so privileged to have met Alex and have been encouraged by his resilience and can-do attitude. The class then worked with Darren from the School Sports Partnership to develop their own abilities to face and overcome challenges.







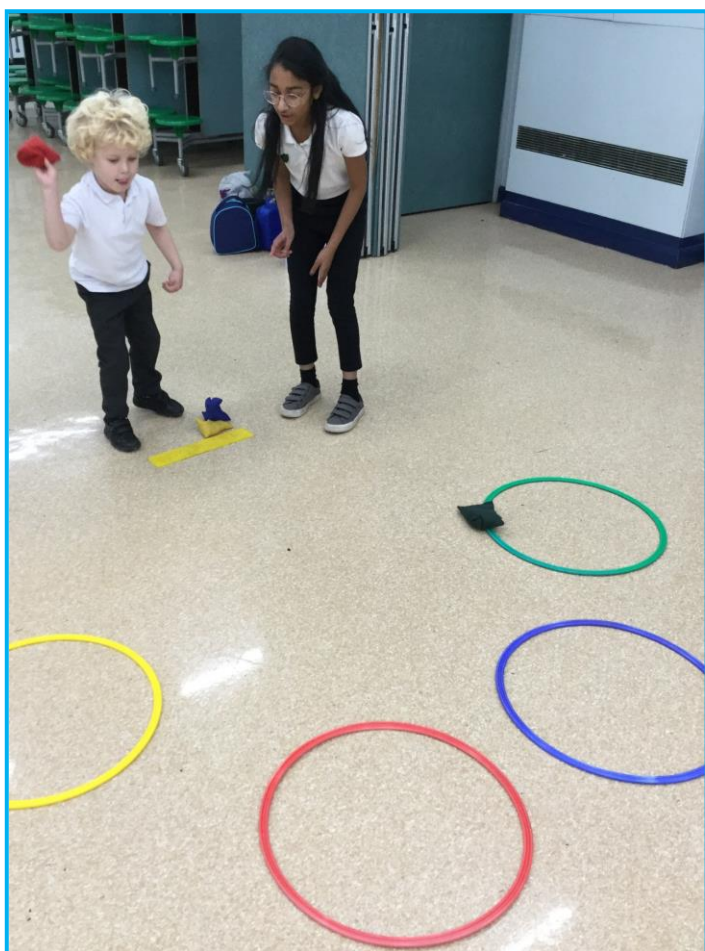
Class 2 had a fantastic time at a Gymnastics Festival. Just look at their amazing skills!







Children from Class 4 worked brilliantly with children in Class 2 during our intra school sports festival. They organised, set up and demonstrated how to complete each sporting challenge to support our children in Class 2.





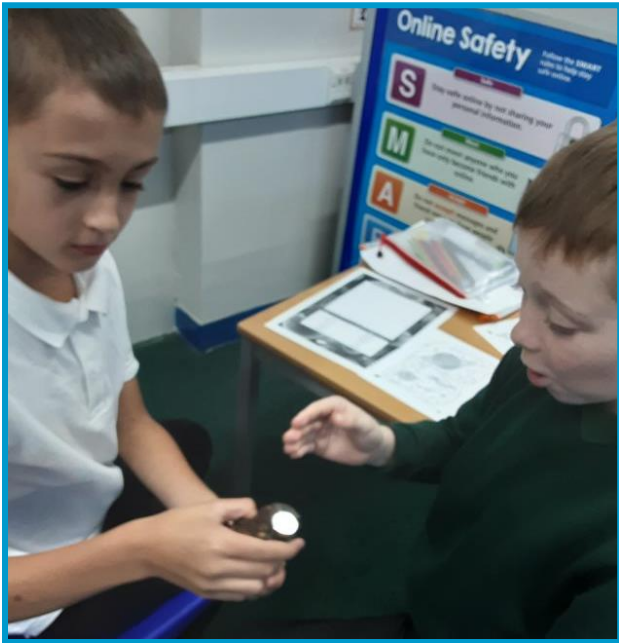
Stem to Stars Project

Year 5 children have been taking part in an exciting project called Stems to Stars which is linked to Kielder Observatory. The first session they participated in was led by an astronomer. They are now completing a series of 12 after school sessions. Every week the astronomer appears on Zoom to introduce their activity for 15 minutes before they work on exciting activities.

As part of the project, school will also have a visit to Kielder Observatory. We have even been given a telescope!









MARVELLOUS ME

Marvellous Me tells you about the wonderful things that your child is learning, and pings you when they've been praised for good work or a great character skill. Marvellous Me is free for parents and carers, and you can share the app with people you trust who will also receive the alerts. All you need is your child's code.

Have you got your child's code for Marvellous Me?

Cherish the moment.
Forever.

Easy-find
News centre

Learning journal and
badge collection

Get wonderful news about your child's learning
and success, and enjoy a keepsake MemoryBook.

We currently have only 82% of children with a parent or carer signed up to Marvellous Me.

Let's see if we can get to 100%! If you need your child's code, please call the office on 0191 3868416 or email school.





Thank you to everyone who is using and regularly checking their child's Class Dojo account.

It is really important that every child has an account and knows how to use it. We use Class Dojo to set all homework and send other messages so please keep checking.

Please email your child's teacher for support or for a reminder of their Class Dojo log in information if needed.

NURSERY

Have a look at just a few of the adventures that nursery have been completing over the last few weeks! Whether they are exploring outside in our garden or investigating inside our nursery they are always learning and growing with excitement and enjoyment.

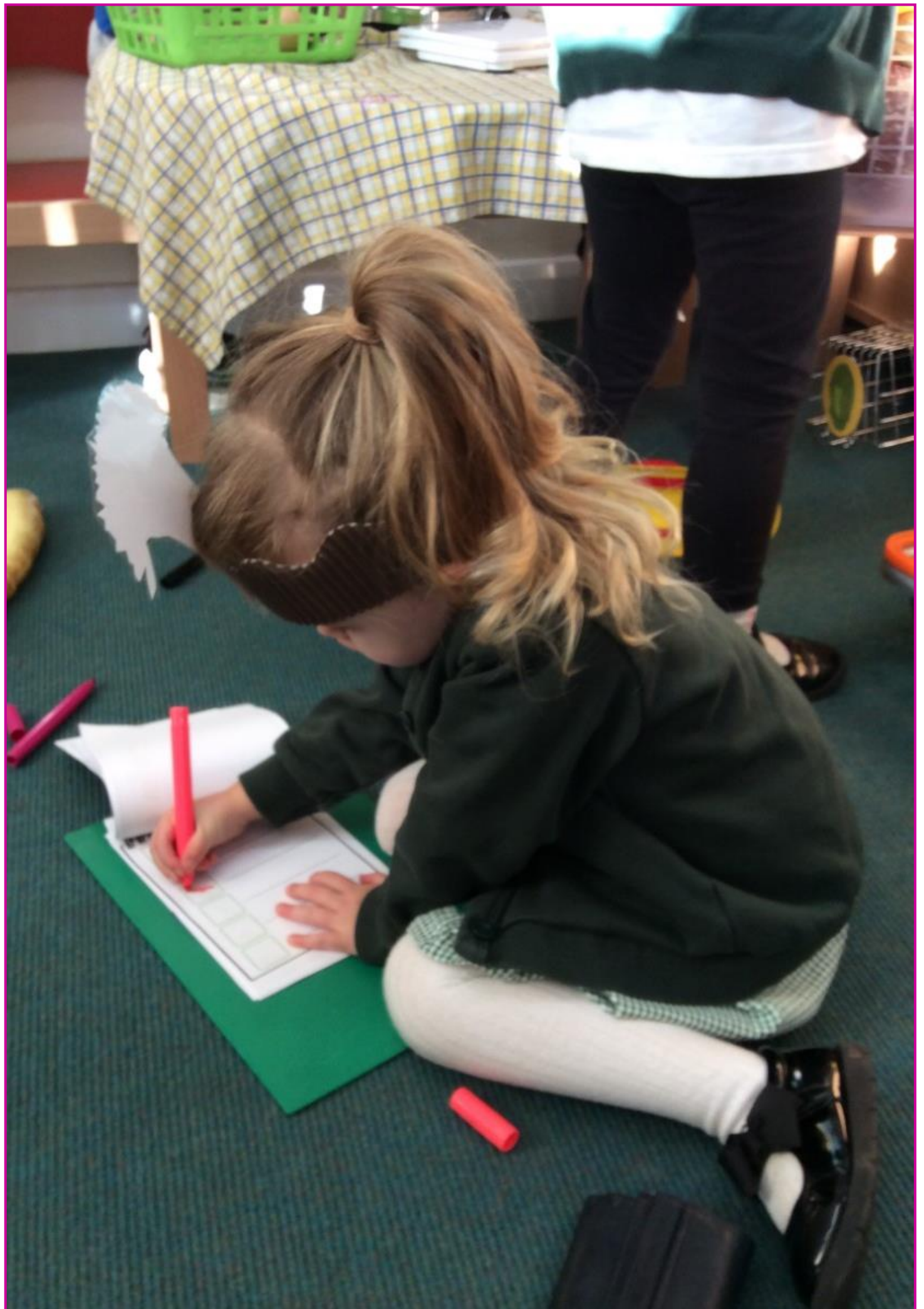
You are all amazing!



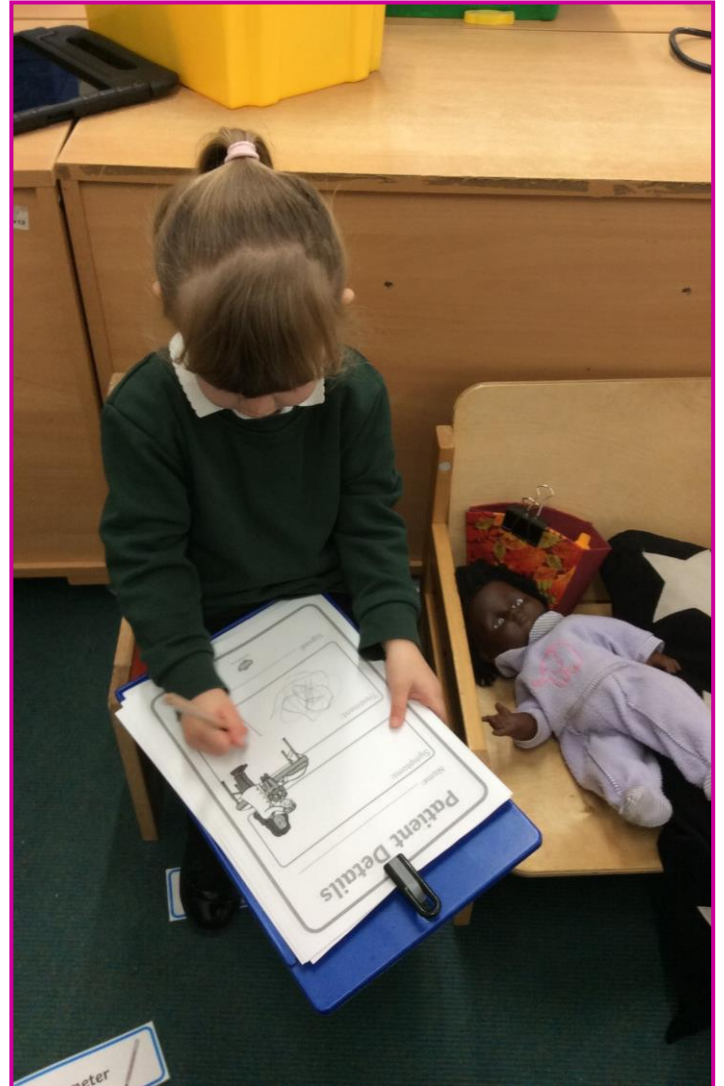




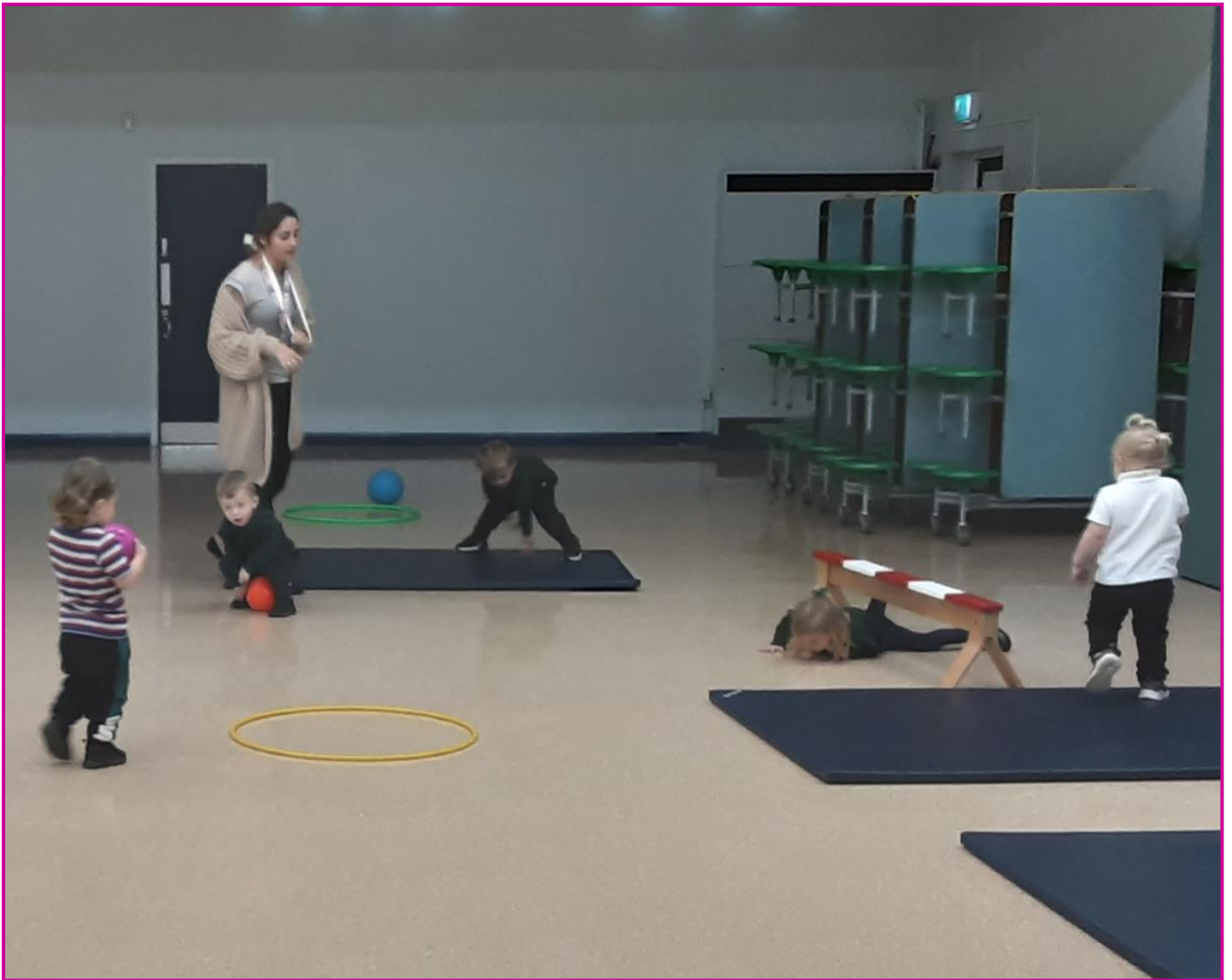
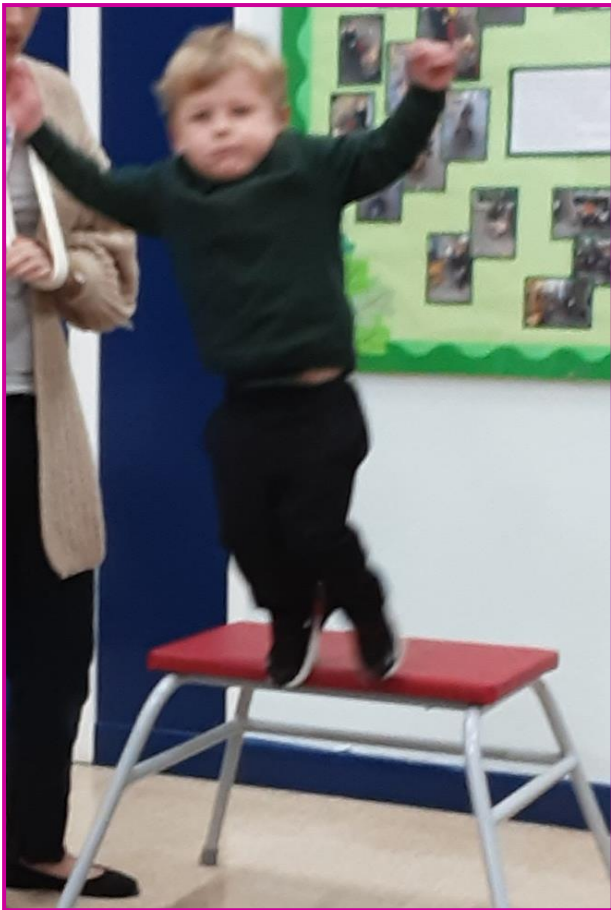




Our Nursery children were working very hard when we opened a doctor's surgery in the role play area. They made lots of poorly babies feel much better.









We love working
in the huge
school hall.

We are fabulous movers
and we're learning such
important physical skills.



Reminder: We are a nut free school.

Due to some of our children suffering with significant nut allergies, we have been advised by the School Nurse to become a NUT FREE SCHOOL. An allergic reaction (anaphylactic shock) can occur through the touching and ingestion of nut products, which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties. Staff in school are trained to use Epi-pens (an injection of adrenalin) which is required immediately if this happens.

Since this condition can be life threatening, we are asking all members of the school community for their help in minimising the risk by:

a) Avoiding giving children nuts or nut products in their packed lunches (Taylor Shaw Catering is a nut free business). So please can we ask that you have no nut products in the lunch boxes, for example:

Peanut butter sandwiches

Chocolate spreads

Cereal bars

Cakes that contain nuts

Biscuits / Cookies that contain nuts

Sauces that contain nuts

This list is not exhaustive, so please check the packaging of products closely.



b) Avoiding supplying the school or Friends of Laurel Avenue Society with cakes, chocolate donations or food items containing nuts for birthday celebrations, sales or events

*We do realise that many foods are labelled as 'may have been produced in a factory handling nuts and cannot be guaranteed to be nut free'. Such items **will** be allowed in school as it would be unreasonable to expect these to be kept out of school.*

Please remember to choose nut free when you are buying Birthday cakes to bring into school. Thank you!



We thank you in advance for your co-operation and support regarding this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak to a member of staff.

Information about how to apply for places in our school nursery are on the next few pages.

It is advisable to apply early as places do fill, especially the two-year-old places.

Nursery places...

Now is a good time to contact school about a nursery place for September.

Do you have or know of a child who is nearly two and would like to book a place in our nursery to start the term after their second birthday? Do you have or know of any two, three or four-year olds who would like to begin their learning journey in our school nursery?

The next few pages of the newsletter explain the offers and places we have in our school nursery so please give us a ring to discuss a place for your child.



You may not be able to book a place (especially a two-year-old place) or have the sessions you would like if you don't act quickly so please get in touch soon!





If you would like your child to start in the school nursery, you will need to call 0191 3868416 and ask to speak to

Gaynor Davison or

Chris Lawson. You can also email

laurelavenue@durhamlearning.net

We'd love to hear from you.



[Click to read our school nursery brochure and find out more about our fabulous nursery.](#)

Important



If you have a nursery aged child and you would like them to start in our fabulous nursery, you need to come into school to complete our application form and arrange a visit.

This is the only way your child can start their learning journey in our school nursery.

If you are interested in any places for two, three or four-year-olds, please call in at the office, call school on 0191 3868416 or e mail laurelavenue@durhamlearning.net to arrange a visit or to check your eligibility code for your two-year-old.

We'd love to hear from you.



*We currently have some spaces available for three and four-year olds. Nursery sessions are start of the week (full days Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday mornings 9.00 – 12.00), end of the week (Wednesday afternoon 12.15 – 3.15, full days Thursday and Friday), five mornings (9.00 – 12.00) and five afternoons (12.15 – 3.15 pm). **Some sessions are full.** Every three and four-year-old is eligible for fifteen hours of free Nursery provision.*

We take children in straight after their third birthday. Application forms are available from the school office or our website.



Is your child eligible?



FREE play and learn for 2-year-olds

Your 2-year-old may be entitled to free childcare from the term after their second birthday at 'Play and Learn' sessions –

15 hours a week.

You may be eligible if you meet the criteria on the next page.

You can do a quick and easy check on our parent portal.

You can access this at www.durham.gov.uk/playandlearn or by scanning the QR code below.



If you are eligible, you will be given a code. Please bring this code to the office or call us on 0191 3868416 and we can arrange for your child to start their sessions in our nursery if we have places available.



Is your child eligible?



Your two-year-old can get free play and learn sessions (15 hours) if you receive one of the following benefits:

- *Income Support*
- *Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)*
- *Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)*
- *Universal Credit - if you and your partner have a combined income from work of less than £15,400 a year after tax*
- *Tax credits and you have an annual income of under £16,190 before tax*
- *The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit*
- *Support through part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act*
- *The Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)*

Your child will also qualify if they:

- *are looked after by the council*
- *have a current statement of special educational needs or an education, health and care (EHC) plan*
- *they get Disability Living Allowance*
- *have left care under a special guardianship order, child arrangements order or adoption order but we will also need some additional evidence, such as a DLA letter. Please contact us for more information.*

If you're a non-European Economic Area (EEA) citizen who cannot claim benefits

Your 2-year-old may get free childcare if you are getting support under the immigration and Asylum Act and have either:

- *claimed asylum in the UK and are waiting for a decision (known as 'part 6')*
- *been refused asylum in the UK (known as 'section 4')*

A 2-year-old you care for may also get free childcare if your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, and you have any of the following:

- *leave to remain with 'no recourse to public funds' on family or private life grounds*
- *support from your local council because you have 'a child in need', for example they have a disability or a child protection plan*
- *the right to live in the UK because you're the main carer of a British citizen (known as a 'Zambrano Carer')*

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



Our School Nursery takes children for the full 30 hours so please make enquiries at the office or with Ms Davison or Mrs Lawson, to discuss this.

Thank you.

30 HOURS

FUNDED CHILDCARE

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 or look here for more information

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

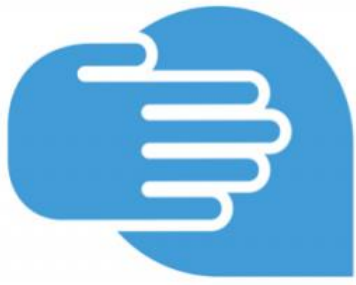
A Halloween-themed poster with a black background. At the top, a large yellow semi-circle contains two black bat silhouettes. Below this, the text 'HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR AT LAUREL AVENUE PRIMARY' is written in a colorful, pixelated font. The central part of the poster features a large black silhouette of a witch on a broomstick flying towards the left, with a black cat perched on the broom. To the right is a large black silhouette of a castle with multiple towers. In the foreground, a black silhouette of a person in a ghost costume stands with arms outstretched. Several other black bat silhouettes are scattered throughout the scene. The text 'Halloween creative writing day' is written in a light blue, cursive font on the right side. At the bottom, the text 'Fancy Dress' and 'Monday 31st October' is written in a light blue, cursive font.

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR AT LAUREL AVENUE PRIMARY

Halloween creative
writing day

Fancy Dress

Monday 31st October



ParentPay

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to ParentPay so far. From now on, this is how:

- uniform is ordered and paid for;
- consent is given and donations are paid for school visits;
- consent is given for after school clubs;
- payments for dinner money are made.

Please call the office if you have not activated your account to see how we can help you with the set up.



BREAKFAST CLUB

 GREGGS

Breakfast Club continues to be a great success!

We would not be able to offer this free club without the sponsorship from Greggs and of course without the brilliant support from our dedicated volunteers!

A very warm and great big thank you to all our
 brilliant Breakfast Club volunteers. 
We really do appreciate all that you do!

*Helen Blakey, Ellen Cottrell,
Catherine Gillet,
 Claire Linfoot, 
Steve Linfoot,
June Nichol and Bo Wood.*




*Reminder: Breakfast Club
starts at 8.20 am.*

We really need to recruit some new Breakfast Club volunteers to be able to keep our Breakfast Club going every morning.

Even if you can only volunteer for one hour a week, or even one hour a fortnight, that would be a great help.

Please speak to one of our volunteers (names on previous page), Ms Davison or your child's teacher.

Thank you.

Super Stars These children have been selected over the last half term as being Super Stars by their teachers for their excellent, hardworking attitude in school. 

Nursery Two-year-olds: Alfie, Lenny, Hallie, AJ and Ronnie-Ray.

Nursery Three/Four Year Olds: Ella, Cole, MeishaMae, Harry and Alannah.

Class 1: Ivor, Jordy, Tiffany, Henley, Zara, Ariya and Hollie.



Class 2: Charlie N, Luke, Violet, Phebe, Joedn, Sophie and Reuben.

Class 3: Madyson, Devon, Elisha, Charlie G, Tristan and S.



Class 4T: Faith, Alisha, Leo, Riley, Bailey and Bethany.

Class 4W: Alice, Matthew, Tommy, Leah, Chloe and Kane.



Mrs Tew: Charlie S, Jack, Ebony, Ray, Jude and Vinnie.

Ms Davison: Joedn, Aiden, Jaxon R, Sofia, Scarlett, Elisha and Kayden.





Monday 31st October: Half Term starts

Monday 31st October: Spooky Halloween Writing Day. Children are welcome to come to school in Halloween costume

Tuesday 1st November: Year 1 and 2 (Class 2) Halloween Sports Festival at Maiden Castle

Tuesday 1st – Wednesday 2nd November: Speeches for School Council ahead of election day

Friday 4th November: School Council Elections

Monday 14th – Friday 18th November: AntiBullying Awareness Week

Monday 14th November: Odd Socks Day – come to school in odd socks with your uniform

Thursday 17th November: AntiBullying Awareness Day

Friday 18th November: Children in Need Day. Donations of £1 per family. Children wear either Children in Need items, something yellow or something spotty.

Friday 25th November: School closed for Teacher Training

Friday 2nd December: EYFS Christmas Performance

Friday 2nd December: Non-Uniform Day for chocolate donation for Christmas Fayre tombola

Friday 9th December: Class 2 Christmas Performance

Thursday 15th December: Class 3 and 4 Christmas Performance

Monday 12th December, 1.30 pm: Christmas Fayre

Wednesday 14th December, am: Nursery Christmas Party

Wednesday 14th December, pm: Class 1 and Class 2 Christmas Party

Monday 19th December, pm: Classes 3 and 4 Christmas Party

Tuesday 20th December: End of Term



Thursday 5th January
Spring Term starts