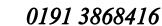
## Laurel Avenue Community Primary School and Nursery



















Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer and managed to enjoy many happy and relaxing moment together as a family. Our school community has sadly not been able to be together for many months now and so we are delighted that we can be one big family once again, welcoming back all of our children from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to you all for the tremendous support we have received over the last few months. It has been an incredibly challenging time for everyone. The kindness and care for our community that has been shown in so many ways is really special and has brought great comfort. We really enjoyed hearing about and sharing the home learning from last term and receiving photographs and messages about everything that has been happening at home. We've missed you all so much!

This newsletter provides important information for the return to school and links to documents, including the guide we have sent out over the holidays. Please contact me on <a href="mailto:laurelavenue@durhamlearning.net">laurelavenue@durhamlearning.net</a> if you have any questions or anything you would like to discuss before your children return to school.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new children and their families. We are looking forward to working with you every day and we promise to guide, nurture and teach your children to be the very best that they can be.

As always, please feel welcome to contact me at any time via phone or e-mail. I always appreciate parents and carers taking the time to discuss any issues,

however big or small. I look forward to working with you all again this year.

## Gaynor Davison

Headteacher

Have you had a chance to have a good look at the guide for the reopening of school in September?

Everything you need to know is in this guide.

## Click here to read our Parent and Carers' Guide to School Reopening in September 2020.

Please email on <u>laurelavenue@durhamlearning.net</u> if you have any questions.

Lots of things have stayed the same, so you don't need to worry!

- There will still be the same familiar faces of the Laurel Avenue staff in school.
- Everyone in school will still care for you and keep you safe.
- We will still have playtimes and enjoy lots of outdoor learning.
- We will still be expected to follow our class and school rules to keep everyone safe and happy.
- We will still wear our smart school uniform.
- We will still have all of our usual lessons.
- We will continue to prioritise time to talk about our emotional health and well-being through PSHE and Relationships Education.
- We will still work hard together to keep everyone happy and healthy, learning, laughing and active.

Is it really important that we all follow the school rules and new routines very carefully. Please read the following additions to our

Behaviour Policy and share with your child. Thank you.

Click here to read Special Amendments to school's Behaviour Policy during Covid-19





In order to ensure social distancing, we are staggering the times for dropping off and collecting your child from school. There is a one-way system in place for both dropping off and collecting your children. Both the drop off times and collection times have been very carefully organised so it is important that they are kept to as much as possible. Even five minutes too early or too late will cause the system to not work efficiently.

If families do not arrive at the correct times then the whole system will not work and we will not be able to maintain a safe environment for all children, families and school staff. We are not able to let children leave school earlier than the specified times as they need to retain the same amount of teaching time. If their day starts after 9.00 am, they must finish after our usual end of school day of 3.15pm. This cannot be negotiated. If you do not want your Key Stage 2 child/ren to walk home alone but you have to collect a Key Stage 1 child 20 or 30 minutes earlier than your older child/ren finish, we can arrange for younger child/ren to stay in school later so you can collect all your children at the same time.

We have already organised this with many families — thank you for getting in touch. If you have not yet been in touch, please email laurelavenue@durhamlearning.net before Wednesday.



Please let us know if your child/ren or a member of your household displays symptoms of the Covid-19.











## CORONAVIRUS STAY ALERT TO THE SYMPTOMS

## HIGH TEMPERATURE OR NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH OR LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL?

No one in your household should leave home if any one person has symptoms.

Find out how to get a test, and how long to isolate, at nhs.uk/coronavirus

STAY ALERT CONTROL THE VIRUS SAVE LIVES

# If a child or staff member has symptoms compatible with Coronavirus (COVID-19), they should not attend school.

If they develop symptoms whilst at school, they will be sent home and told they and their household must follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. Anyone with symptoms should self-isolate for 10 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days.

Everyone has access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) and they should follow the guidance on how to arrange to have a test. Click here to order a test online. If you do not have internet access, we can support you to order a test online.

## https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/

If your child tests positive you should inform school immediately. You should follow the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and your child must self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste (anosmia). This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal.

If your child tests negative, other members of the household can stop self-isolating. If your child feels well and no longer has symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu — in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better.

## If your child shows symptoms of COVID-19 then the following procedures will be followed:

Your child will be accompanied by a staff member, at a safe distance, to the isolation room in the Community Centre, with all their belongings.

The Class Teacher will organise the immediate wiping down of all surfaces that the child has and may have been in contact with. All children will leave the room/go outside until the room has been disinfected. All those in the class, including staff members, will wash their hands.

The staff member in the isolation room will:

Put on a face visor, disposable apron and disposable gloves.

Leave the door open for ventilation.

Take your child's temperature - symptoms of COVID-19 are a temperature of 37.8C or above.

No one else will be allowed to enter the room whilst your child is there.

If the child needs to use the toilet, they should use the Community Centre toilet. This toilet will not be used by anyone else until it has been cleaned and disinfected. This will be done as soon as the child has been collected.

If your child is seriously ill, injured or their life is at risk, 999 will be called.

You will be telephoned immediately and asked to collect your child.

On arrival, you should wait at the Community Centre door and your child will be brought to you.

The following guidance will be given to you:

Your child should stay home for 10 days. If their temperature is normal again after this time, they can return to school; if they still have a temperature, then they cannot return until it returns to normal.

You need to book a test <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/">https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/</a> If you do not have internet access, we can support you to order a test online.

You must inform school of the results as soon as you know.

Other members of your household should self-isolate for the full 14 days.

The isolation room will be immediately cleaned and disinfected.

Members of staff and other children in school do not need to be sent home unless they display symptoms themselves.

## Attendance

Schools have been working hard over the summer period to prepare and welcome back all pupils in the new academic year. A range of protective measures have been put in place in order that parents, carers and children feel confident of their safe return to settings.

As a school, we understand that, as parents and carers, you may have anxieties or concerns about your child's return and we encourage you to contact us if you have any specific concerns that you would like to talk through or any help and support that you or your child may require.

As echoed by the Government, it is vital for all children who can be at school to return, given that the sooner children can return to school, the better it is for their health and mental wellbeing, wider development and their educational prospects. The Government have made clear the expectation that all children will return to school in September 2020 when school attendance will, again, be mandatory and the school's attendance policy clearly mirrors this.

The Government have planned for a range of potential scenarios detailing the actions that parents and schools should take in the event of one of the issues arising and this is attached in the summary attendance policy leaflet. I would be grateful if you could all familiarise themselves with this.

## Important: Click to read Essential Attendance Information for Parents and Carers

The different Covid-19 scenarios are detailed towards the end of the leaflet and should answer all of your questions regarding attendance at this time.

## Attendance

## Important: Click to read school's Attendance Policy for 2020-2021

It is mandatory for all children to attend from 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 which means all children need to be in school every day. If your child cannot attend, please contact school to let us know, as usual. You will need to bring in any appointment letters if your child has an appointment during school time or if they need to be collected or dropped off at a time different to usual. Where parents have done all that has been asked in reporting absences linked to Covid-19 and providing test results, these absences will be authorised by the school.



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.

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. Absence due to Covid-19 will be taken into account this year.



#### **Punctuality**

Even with staggered starting times, children are still expected to arrive on time before their lesson starts. Where you have children starting at different times, we have arranged for you to drop them all off together in time for your youngest child to start their lesson which is the earliest start. 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.

Lessons start right at the beginning of each child's starting time, so children late in will miss the start of their lesson. Ten minutes late a day is 50 minutes of maths lost every 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.

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

CorrMed, together with sponsors from GOJO and Gama have created a completely free to use game for young children to help them learn about hand



washing - endorsed by the Infection Prevention Society (UK).

It is available for Android Phones and there is a web version.

The app can be found here <a href="https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.tipitap.handwash&hl=en">https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.tipitap.handwash&hl=en</a>

Links to both the web version and the Android app can be found from this page <u>www.handwashsquad.com</u>













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 laurelayenue@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 spaces available in September for three and four-year olds at the 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). Every three and four-year-old is eligible for fifteen hours of free Nursery provision.

We take children in straight after their third birthday

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

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

Income Support Jobseeker's Allowance Support for a 'Looked After' child Child Tax credits - income below £16.190

Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit

Support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

FREE

Employment and Support Allowance - income related

Disability Living Allowance (child) Working Tax Credits and earn no more than £16,190

Current Education, Health and Care Plan (child)

Special Guardianship, or an adoption, or Residence Order



#### How do you apply?

Bring your golden ticket into our school office and we will tell you when your child can start. If you don't have a golden ticket, visit: https://education.durham.gov.uk/parentportal/ where you can check whether you are eligible. If you are eligible you will then receive a letter which you should bring into school. Places will be available at the start of the term after their second birthday.

Application forms are available from school.



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.

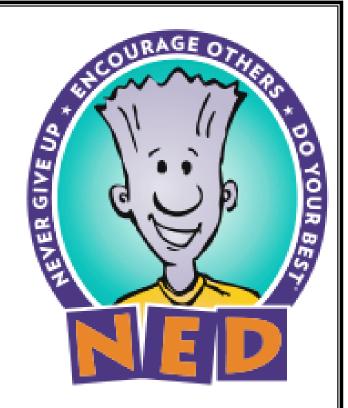
## **FUNDED CHILDCARE**

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/

## MERT 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!





We are very happy to welcome a new member of staff to school from September.

Mrs Lisa Lines will be our new teaching assistant working in Class I. We can't wait to start working with her and for you all to meet her.

School Uniform We have items of uniform 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.

#### PE Kits

From September 2020, children will not wear PE kits as usual.

On PE days, please send your child to school in a PE kit consisting of their school jumper and polo shirt as usual but with either dark, plain leggings, or dark plain tracksuit bottoms and dark, plain trainers or plimsolls. We will not be getting changed for PE for the foreseeable future so please do not send your child to school with their PE kit.

## There will be no swimming for Class 3.

Please keep a note of when your child will need to arrive in their PE kit.

Class 1: Monday and Wednesday

Class 2: Monday and Wednesday

Class 3: Tuesday and Friday

Class 4: Monday and Tuesday



Each term, topic sheets for parents/carers of children in Class 2, 3 and 4 and curriculum sheets which will show you how we are meeting the requirements of the curriculum as well as the needs and interests of your child are available on the website. Please have a look and work through the plan with your child as they progress through their topic.

# Nursery and Class 1 – Amazing People 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.

Overview and curriculum sheets are available on our 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.



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

unowledge 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.

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 and for contacting you should any emergencies arise within school. Please can you also check to see if any of your emergency contacts have changed their contact details. Let us know of any changes either by telephone: 0191 3868416 or emailing laurelavenue@durhamlearning.net Thanks!

## School Meals 2020 - 2021

Meals for Infant children (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) are free again this year.

Meals for all other children will be £2.10 per day.

Please note that this is an increase of 5p per day.

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





## Facebook

Just a reminder that we will only put your child's picture on Facebook if you have completed a permission letter. If you never see your child on Facebook, it is highly likely that is because we do not have permission to use their picture. Please contact the office if you would like a new permission letter. You can change your mind at any time.

## Thank you.



We would be very appreciative if you could please take some time to make sure that all uniform, coats and packed lunch bags have your child's name in. Staff try very hard to make sure that children return home with the correct uniform every day but it is very difficult when so many items have no names and children are not sure which is theirs.



Names can wash out easily so it would be fantastic if you could check after every wash.

Thank you!



# News from Laurel Avenue Community Centre

Laurel United Youth Group – Summer Programme We hope that you have all enjoyed the activities that have been delivered to you throughout the Summer holidays. We have loved seeing photographs that have been e-mailed and it's been great to spend time with some Children that are moving on to their new schools and colleges next week.

Our youth team will continue to deliver packs to you every Monday during September whilst we finalise our plans to re-open the Community Centre. We will be in touch with more information nearer that time. If you would like to be added to our youth group outreach list to receive an activity pack, please get in touch; email and telephone number is on the next page.

## Laurel Avenue Lunch Club

Lunch will continue to be delivered to everyone on Thursday mornings followed by a Zoom Chat at 1:30pm. We have space for more members to join. If you know of anyone who would benefit from receiving a meal and seeing a friendly face each week, please get in touch.

## Active Community Group

'Caff Gaff' Zoom Coffee Mornings will continue every Monday and Friday Morning at 11.00 am. To chat to friends and find out what's going on in our community you can sign up to join. For information about how to join please email: admin@laurelavenuecommunity.com

We have teamed up with lots of other local organisations to create a **free** well-being table. A community take or exchange event for all local residents is held at *Durham City Baptist Church* every Saturday morning from 9:45 – 11:30 am. Pop along to get free things such as books, jigsaws, toys, stationery, DVDs, board games, Craft materials, embroidery, sewing kits and much more.

We would like to welcome two new youth football teams to our site 'Shincliffe Juniors', both boys and girls teams, will be playing their home matches at Laurel Avenue on Saturday mornings. If you do enjoy coming along to spectate, please follow social distancing measures whilst on site. Community Centre staff will be on site should you require any support.

For any further support please telephone or email Claire: 07825956094 admin@laurelavenuecommunity.com

## School Holidays 2020/2021

### Please keep this information for future reference

Date De Aren for

Holiday	Closing Date	Vate Ke-open for Teaching Purposes
Summer 2020 (6 weeks 2 days)	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	Wednesday 2nd September 2020
Autumn Half-Term 2020 (1 week)	Friday 23rd October 2020	Monday 2nd November 2020
Teacher Training Day (1 day)	Thursday 26th November 2020	Monday 30th November 2020
Christmas 2020 (2 weeks 1 day)	Friday 18th December 2020	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
Spring Half-Term 2021 (1 week)	Friday 12th February 2021	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021
Easter 2021 (2 weeks)	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Monday 12th April 2021
<b>May Day 2021</b> (1 day)	Friday 30th April 2021	Tuesday 4th May 2021
Summer Half-Term 2021 (1 week)	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Monday 7th June 2021
Summer 2021	Friday 16th July 2021	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.





Year 6 Key Stage 2 SATS: 10<sup>th</sup> May - 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 Year 2 Key Stage 1 Assessment Period: Month of May 2021 Year 1 Phonics Tests will take place during the week beginning June 7<sup>th</sup> 2021

Year 4 Multiplication-Tables Check will take place between Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## Reminder: 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.

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 in school or the School Nurse, Hayley Agnew, telephone: 03000 264247.