Claverdon News

September 2026

Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome at the beginning of an exciting new school year. We hope you have enjoyed a restful summer break and are looking forward to the year ahead.

It has been wonderful to welcome our children back to school after the summer break and we are particularly delighted to welcome our new **Reception starters and their families** to the Claverdon Primary School community. We hope that your first few weeks will be filled with excitement, new experiences and the beginnings of many happy memories.

The start of a new school year is always a special time. There is a real sense of new beginnings across school as children settle into their new classes, reconnect with friends and begin the next stage of their learning. Thank you to all our families for the support you have given your children as they have returned to school and re-established those important routines.

This year is also particularly exciting as we begin to share and celebrate our **new school values**. Our six values: **Accountability, Unity, Kindness, Acceptance, Courage and Creativity** will help to guide us in how we learn, behave and care for one another. As our values statement says, *"Together we are united in strength, accountable for our actions, kind in spirit, accepting of others, creative in thought and courageous."*

These values are more than words on a poster. We want to see them reflected in the everyday life of our school: in the kindness children show to one another, the courage they demonstrate when trying something new, the creativity they bring to their learning and the way we work together as a community.

As we look ahead to the autumn term, we will also continue to work closely with families to support **strong attendance, positive learning routines and children's growing independence**. Regular attendance is an important part of helping children make the most of their learning, friendships and opportunities in school. We are keen to work closely with families to support home learning, with weekly reading, spellings and online learning providing valuable opportunities to reinforce learning beyond the classroom.

Most importantly, please remember that **we are here for you**. Strong communication between home and school is central to supporting every child and our school office is always happy to help with questions or concerns.

I am looking forward to all that this new school year will bring — the learning, the laughter, the challenges, the achievements and the many opportunities for our children to shine.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can make this a wonderful year for every child at our amazing School.

With very best wishes,

Mr. Dan Powell
Head Teacher

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School Office Messages

Dear Parents and Carers,

At our school, we believe that strong communication between home and school is key to supporting every child's success.

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to get in touch with us whenever you need to.

We know how busy life can be and we're always here to help!

If you have any questions, please contact us using via MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) using the messaging feature.

Telephone: 01926 842 403

Email: admin2017@welearn365.com

Please note: We now only use MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) *for all communication. Other apps such as Greenhouse and School Gateway are no longer in use.*

Label everything!

We still find that many items of clothing do not have children's names in them. Please remember to **label everything** that comes into school. This will enable us to return them to you as quickly as possible. There is a lost property collection on site, please feel free to pop in and have a hunt through these items if you are missing something that is not named.

PE and Forest School

Children should come to school wearing their PE kits on their allocated PE days.

Monday: Y1 & Y4

Tuesday: YR, Y2, Y3, Y5 & Y6

Thursday: Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6

Friday: Y1

Forest School (Reception only): Monday

Absence & Notifications via MCAS

What do I do if my child is ill?

Please report your child's absence **before 8:45am on the day** they are unwell.

1. Go to **Attendance > Report an Absence**
2. Use the **Message** box, to explain your child's **symptoms** – we are required to record this information.
3. Press **Send** to submit.

What do I do if my child has an appointment? *(e.g. medical, music exam)*

Please let us know **in advance** using **MCAS**.

1. Go to **Attendance > Report an Absence**.
2. In the **Message** box, explain the reason for the appointment.
3. Add any appointment evidence using **Add Attachment**.
4. Press **Send** to submit.

What do I do if I want to request holiday or other leave from school?

Holidays and other absences during term time are **only authorised in exceptional circumstances**.

To make a request:

1. Click here to complete a WCC **Leave of Absence** form.
2. Go to **Attendance > Report an Absence**.
3. In the **Message** box, explain your exceptional reasons.
4. Upload your completed form using **Add Attachment**.
5. Press **Send** to submit.

What do I do if someone else is collecting my child(ren)?

If your child will be collected by another adult:

1. On the MCAS dashboard, click the **Message** icon (envelope).
2. In your message, include the **name** of the person collecting your child and the **date and time** they will be collecting.
3. Press Send.

Important: *If your child attends an after-school club (including Clover Club), you must also inform the* ***club directly*** *about collection arrangements. Please do not message the school office.*

Morning routine

Before your child comes into school and to help with the smooth running of the school office in the morning, please run through the school day with your child to ensure they are prepared for the day ahead.

A simple checklist could include:

1) Have they got a full named water bottle?
2) Have they got a healthy snack?
3) Have they got their reading diary?
4) Do they know the school lunch options or have their packed lunch?
5) Are they wearing the appropriate uniform *e.g. PE kit on PE day*?
6) Do they know if they are going to an after-school club?
7) Do they know who is collecting them?

After School Clubs

Please click here for a full list of after school clubs for the Autumn Term.

External Clubs: Please contact providers directly if you are looking to book your child onto their club.

Please note: Spring term club arrangements will be shared via MCAS at the end of the Autumn term.

MCAS Dinner Money

For parents in Years 3-6, please review your dinner money balance and top it up. We ask that all balances are kept with £10 credit in them. The MCAS app will notify you when the balance is low and the admin team will begin to send you messages once you are -£10.

Please keep your eye on your balance and top if up weekly if required.

Free School Meals

There is new guidance on free school meals. If you are in receipt of Universal Credit you can now apply for Free School Meals.

Find out more here:
https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/apply-free-school-meals

My School Fund

Do you shop at Sainsburys or Argos? Do you want to earn 2% cashback on your shopping? Register with My School Fund, link to Claverdon Primary School and get earning!

School will also benefit with gift cards to the value of 1% cashback of your shopping.

As we are sure you are aware, budgets are tight with costs rising and every penny counts so please do sign up!

For more information, please click here…

Medication

If your child needs to take medication (prescribed by a GP or other), please contact the school office to arrange an appropriate time where you can attend school to administer their medication.

School staff are not required to administer medication. However, in certain circumstances trained first aiders may be willing to accept responsibility for administering medication.

Please contact the school office if you would like to discuss your child's medication.

For more information, please click here…

We hope that you find this information helpful and please remember, if you need information or help in anyway, please contact the school office.

Our Values:

Six values light our way, shining brighter every day.

Accountability

Take responsibility for your actions.

Unity

Support each other through teamwork.

Kindness

Show you care in your words and actions.

Acceptance

Respect yourself, others and the world around you.

Courage

Challenge yourself and dare to try.

Creativity

Explore and have endless imagination.

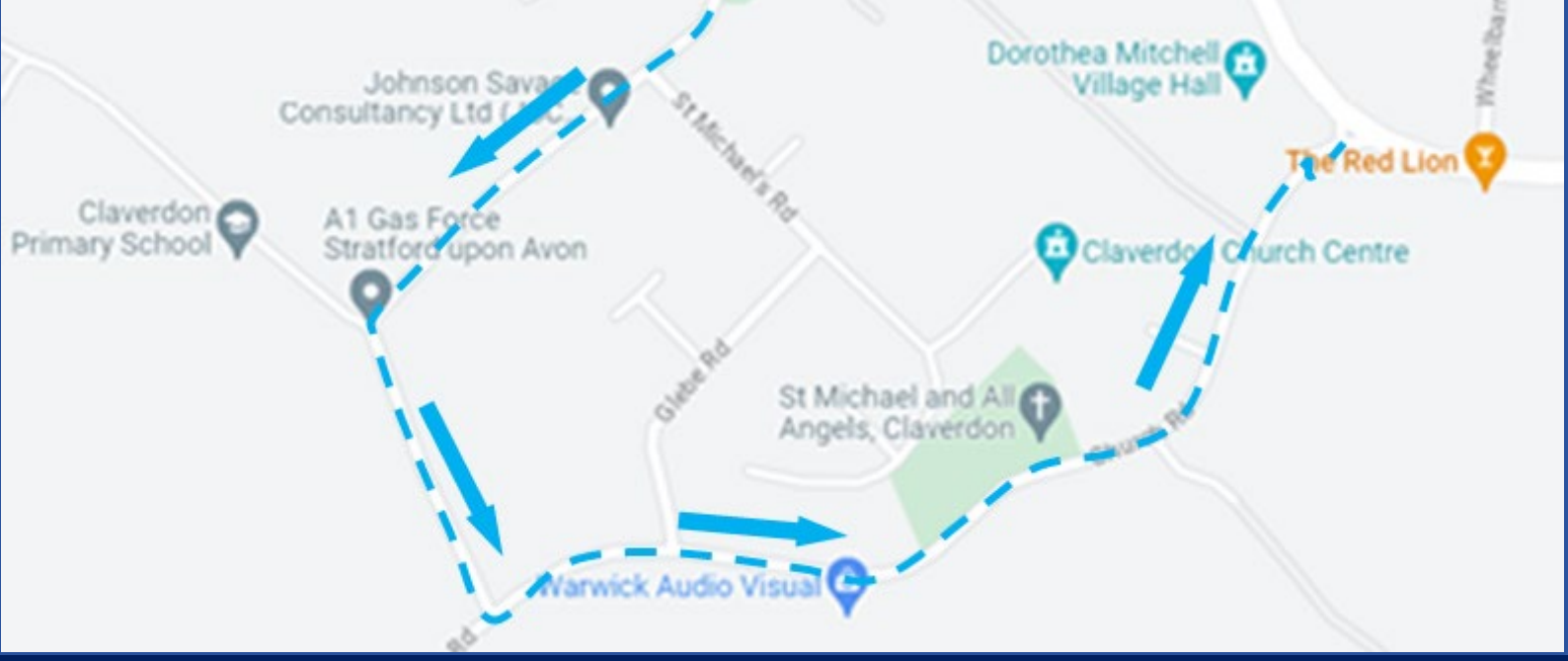
Our Values Statement

Together we are united in strength, accountable for our actions, kind in spirit, accepting of others, creative in thought and courageous.

Autumn Term Diary Dates:
Important dates for your diary

Date:	Event description
09/09/26	Meet the Teacher Morning (8.30 - 9.00am) *All parents & carers welcome into classrooms*
15/09/26	Reception Curriculum Workshop (5.30 – 6.15pm) *All Reception parents and carers to attend*
16/09/26	Pupil Individual Photographs – *please wear full school uniform and brush hair!*
22/09/26	Cauliflower Card (Christmas cards) order forms sent home – *one week to order!*
27/09/26	FOCPS Fun Run (Sunday)
30/09/26	Phonics & Early Reading Workshop (5.30 – 6.15pm) *All Reception and Y1 parents and carers to attend*
05/10/26	Reception Harvest Service, St Michael and All Angel (10.45 – 11.45am) *All parents and carers welcome*
06/10/26	KS1/KS2 School Harvest Service, St Michael and All Angels (9.30 – 10.30am) *All parents & carers welcome*
09/10/26	World Mental Health Day - please wear yellow!
14/10/26	Number Fluency Workshop (5.00 – 5.45pm) *All Y3 & Y4 parents and carers to attend – Y5 & Y6 parents welcome too!*
21/10/26	Open Afternoon (2.45 – 3.15pm) *All parents & carers welcome into classrooms*
22/10/26	Number Fluency Workshop (5.00 – 5.45pm) *All Reception, Y1 & Y2 parents and carers to attend*
23/10/26	**Break up for half term!**
13/11/26	Children in Need (non-uniform)
29/11/26	Christingle Service, St Michael and All Angels (Sunday – 4.00pm)
30/11/26	Reception Advent Service, St Michael and All Angels (10.45 – 11.45am) *All parents & carers welcome*
02/12/26	Parent/Carers' Evening, face-to-face (4.00 – 6.30pm)
03/12/26	Parent/Carers' Evening, face-to-face (4.00 – 6.30pm)
09/12/26	Visit to watch 'The Gruffalo's Child' at Warwick Arts Centre (Rec & KS1) - **TBC**
10/12/26	Visit to watch 'Cinderella' at Leamington Spa Centre (KS2)
10/12/26	Parent/Carers' Evening, SEND Pupils Only, face-to-face (4.00 – 6.30pm)
11/12/26	Christmas Jumper Day (Save the Children Charity) & Christmas Lunch
11/12/26	Reception Christmas Nativity, St Michael and All Angels (1.15 – 2.15pm) *All parents & carers welcome*
15/12/26	KS1/KS2 School Christmas Service, St Michael and All Angels (9.30 – 10.30am) *All parents & carers welcome*
15/12/26	YR, Y1, Y2 Nativity Show 1 (2.00 - 3.00pm)
16/12/26	YR, Y1, Y2 Nativity Show 2 (2.00 - 3.00pm)
18/12/26	**Break up for Christmas!**

Please note that class-based educational visits will be planned in throughout the term with all information being provided in advance.



School drop off, pick up and parking

Our school community operate an 'unofficial voluntary' one-way system during school drop off and collection to help make life a little easier for all!

Please enter Langley Road from the A4189 (Warwick - Henley Road) at the crossroads by the village green and follow Langley Road past the turn off for Breach Lane (school), turning left onto Church Road which will bring you back to the A4189 by the old blacksmith's forge.

You are able to park on Langley Road and walk with your child to/from school, unless your child is in Years 6 and you have given permission for them to walk home alone. If your child/ren have permission to walk home and you are meeting them in your car, please agree a collection point with them.

Please be responsible when parking and remember the following:

- Park on one side of the road only, emergency vehicles, school buses and lorries also use this road and need to be able to get through at all times.
- Please do not obstruct our neighbours' driveways, consider that an emergency vehicle may need to access these too so do please leave plenty of space.
- Please **do not stop or park on the zig zags** on Langley Road, these are there to keep your children safe.
- Please **do not enter Breach Lane** in a vehicle unless you have spoken to the office (e.g. Blue Badge Holder), whilst we appreciate there appears to be parking further down the lane we ask, respectfully, that you do not use this space to park to drop off/collect your child. In a bid to avoid accidents and keep your child safe we are trying to keep the number of cars on Breach Lane to a minimum.
- Please **do not** park on the corner of Langley Road opposite the entrance to Breach Lane. This forces cars onto the wrong side of the road round a blind bend outside a school.
- Please do not park on the pavement and cause an obstruction to pedestrians who may be trying to get past with a pushchair.

Being Responsible:
Home Learning at Claverdon

We know that evidence suggests that children who regularly complete homework have better school outcomes than children who do not. Homework has a number of potential benefits including consolidation of what has been learned in lessons, preparation for subsequent lessons and the development of independent learning skills (EEF, Parental Engagement, 2021).

Each week, we ask children to learn their **weekly spellings, record five entries in their reading diary** and complete their **Mathletics task(s).** Y2 to Y6, will also be set weekly TTRockstar tasks. We believe this is manageable, not overwhelming and ultimately supports children's wellbeing and development within school - for all children.

Please see below for more details on how Weekly homework is set through each year group's Google Classroom:

- All passwords (Mathletics, We Learn, TTRockstars) are stuck on the inside front cover of reading diaries.
- Information detailing weekly homework is posted by the class teacher on Google Classroom each Wednesday by 4.00pm.
- We ask children to submit or hand in their work by Monday, 4.00pm.

Reading diaries

Our expectations within school are that there will be **five entries in reading diaries per week**.

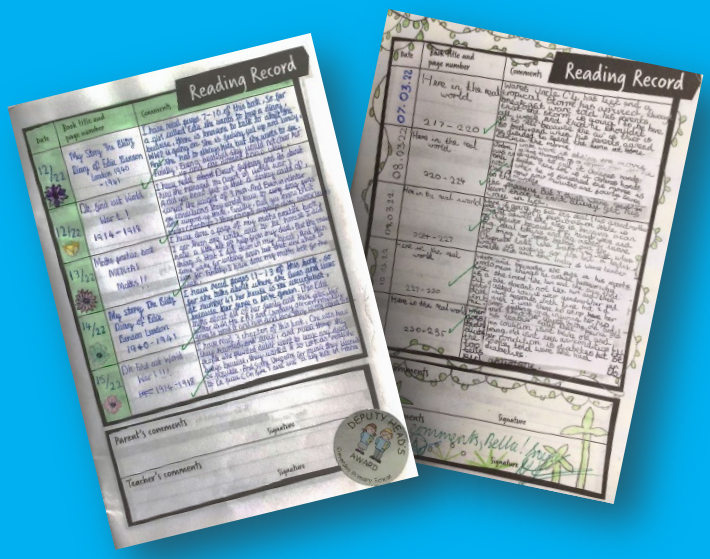
In Reception, Y1 and Y2, it is appropriate that parents/carers write entries for their child.

In Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6, we encourage children to write their own comments in reading diaries.

Additional homework

There may be occasions where children are set extra homework tasks such as a research question directly linked to teaching and learning in class. Again, this will be detailed on Google Classroom.

In Y6, with the build up towards SATs, extra grammar and maths questions may be set.



How you can support home learning?

What can make a huge difference to successful completion of home learning tasks is a regular routine and strong study habits. Encouraging consistent times for homework completion can support children's organisation and motivation. And, of course, showing interest and encouragement will always inspire young minds to achieve well. If your child is ever finding some of the homework challenging, please let us know and we will support.

When does homework start?

Your child will receive their first set of homework tasks (posted on Google Classroom) on Wednesday 16th September. This will be due on Monday 21st September.

If there is ever a challenge accessing home learning from home, please inform relevant class teachers or the school office.

Next steps

Following pupil voice and our recent parental survey, **we are currently conducting a review of our maths home learning**. Any changes to current home learning practises will be shared with you. Please see our upcoming **Number Fluency Workshop**s outlined in our Autumn Term dates which will provide further guidance and clarity around these decisions.

Promoting Strong School Attendance

At Claverdon Primary School, we are committed to providing the best education for every child and regular school attendance is key to their success.

While we understand occasional absences due to illness or unavoidable reasons, strong attendance is essential for your child's academic achievement, personal development and future opportunities.

Why Attendance Matters

Regular attendance helps your child:

- **Achieve their best** academically, as learning builds day-by-day.
- **Develop friendships** and social skills.
- **Build confidence** through routines.
- **Prepare for future opportunities**, whether in secondary school, further education, or work.

Government guidance highlights that children with poor attendance are at a disadvantage, leading to **learning gaps**, **lower attainment** and **fewer opportunities** later in life.

The Impact of Poor Attendance

Missing school regularly can have a serious impact. For example:

- **90% attendance** = missing **1 half-day** every week = nearly **4 weeks lost per year**.
- **80% attendance** = missing **1 full day** every week = almost **8 weeks lost per year**.

Over multiple years, this adds up:

- **90% attendance over 5 years** = half a year of lost education.
- **80% attendance over 5 years** = a full year of lost education.

Missing even one day a week can lead to learning gaps that are difficult to overcome, affecting progress, confidence and future opportunities. Prioritising attendance helps develop positive habits that will benefit your child throughout life.

Supporting You and Your Child

We are here to support you and your child in maintaining good attendance. If you face challenges affecting attendance, such as health or family issues, please let us know. We can offer guidance and, where needed, connect with external services to help.

Attendance Expectations

- **Above 97%** attendance is considered excellent.
- **90-96%** attendance is concerning and we will discuss strategies to improve.
- **Below 90%** is classed as **persistent absenteeism**. In such cases, we will work closely with you to address the reasons and put supportive measures in place.

What We Expect from You

1. **Ensure your child attends school daily** and arrives on time (8:30 am opening).
2. **Avoid absences during term time**, including holidays, which will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances.
3. **Notify us by 8:45 am** if your child is unwell and unable to attend.
4. **Work with us** to resolve any concerns.

The Process for Managing Attendance

Our approach follows the latest **Department for Education (DfE) guidance.**

1. **Unauthorised attendance**: All unauthorised attendance will be reported to the Local Authority in line with the school 'Attendance Policy'.
2. **Regular Monitoring:** Attendance is reviewed daily and weekly. Children below 90% are flagged for early intervention.
3. **Initial Contact:** If attendance falls, we will contact you to discuss and offer support.
4. **Attendance Support Plan:** If concerns persist, we will create a plan, setting targets and providing access to resources or external services.
5. **Formal Measures:** If attendance does not improve, we will follow formal measures, as outlined in the school 'Attendance policy', which may include fines or legal proceedings.

Recognising Success

At **Claverdon Primary School**, we believe in celebrating **good attendance**. Each term, we will acknowledge and reward children who have good attendance. It's a great way to motivate pupils and highlight the importance of regular attendance.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO RETURN TO ROUTINE

Most of us look forward to the school holidays as an opportunity to slow down and relax, stay up later, sleep in and generally approach life in a more leisurely fashion. However, this does mean that returning to normal school-day routines can feel like an uphill battle. Here are some practical tips to ease that transition, reduce stress and set children up for success.

1 START SMALL AND EARLY

Begin reintroducing elements of the school routine at least a few days before term starts. Gradually adjust bedtime, wake-up times and mealtimes to be more in line with school-day rhythms. Small changes can make a big difference in avoiding last-minute panic and helping children to readjust smoothly.

2 REVISIT THE SCHEDULE

Involve your child in mapping out their daily routine so they understand what's going to change. Visual tools like charts or calendars can help keeping to that schedule feel more engaging. When children understand and anticipate their personal timetable, they feel more secure and in control.

3 CREATE A SLEEP PLAN

Sleep can present one of the biggest challenges, as children can sometimes become night owls, prone to staying up late during the holidays. Limit screen time before bed and encourage winding-down activities like reading or listening to calming music. A restful night's sleep improves focus, mood and overall wellbeing, making mornings much smoother.

4 ENCOURAGE FRIENDSHIPS

Help your child to reconnect with school friends by organising playdates, catch-ups or arranging to go to after-school clubs. Re-establishing social bonds can make the return to school more exciting and less intimidating, allowing youngsters to focus on the positive aspects of the new term.

5 GRANT RESPONSIBILITY

Give children control over some aspects of the morning routine. Maybe they could be in charge of waking everyone up, serving breakfast or choosing the radio station that everyone listens to while getting ready. Something that gives them a sense of ownership over their morning schedule can help them view the task as one they've chosen to do, rather than being told to do it.

6 FOCUS ON NUTRITION

Make sure children are receiving balanced meals (with regular healthy snacks to boost energy and concentration), putting them in the best possible state to return to education. A nutritious breakfast is particularly crucial for a positive start to the day. Involve children in meal planning to make it enjoyable and collaborative.

7 COMMUNICATE OPENLY

Talk with your child about how they're feeling about returning to school: whether they're excited, anxious or a mix of both. Validating their emotions helps them feel supported and understood. Try asking them about the things they're looking forward to at school, such as seeing their friends again. Focusing on the positives can be useful for children struggling with change.

8 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING

Ease children back into a learning mindset by incorporating fun, educational activities into their home life. Reading a favourite book, playing games that involve maths or discussing an interesting topic can gently reawaken their focus and prime their minds to learn, which can have helpful impacts on their academic performance.

9 PREP TOGETHER

Turn preparation into a shared activity, to shoulder the responsibility together and provide support where needed. Pack school bags, lay out uniforms and plan lunch the night before. This not only reduces early morning stress but also gives children a sense of ownership over being ready for school.

10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE

Transitions take time, and every child adjusts differently: so, it's important to stay calm and supportive, especially if they're reacting adversely to the change in their daily life. Be ready to tweak routines as needed, and work with the child to make the return to education as easy as possible for them. Patience can go a long way to setting a positive tone for the new school year.

Meet Our Expert

Becky Dawson is an education expert with a focus on mental health and wellbeing. Passionate about empowering adults who spend time with and care for young people, Becky specialises in creating practical strategies that promote wellbeing and resilience in children during life's transitions.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-to-return-to-routine

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 01.01.2025

NUT ALLERGIES

OUR SCHOOL IS STRICTLY

NUT-FREE!

WHY IT MATTERS

Nuts can cause serious allergic reactions in some children. Even a tiny amount can be life-threatening.

LET'S KEEP EVERYONE SAFE TOGETHER

FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL OUR PUPILS, PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL SNACKS AND LUNCH ITEMS ARE NUT-FREE.

WHAT DOES THIS INCLUDE?

ALL TYPES OF NUTS

Peanuts, almonds, cashews, pistachios, walnuts, hazelnuts, etc.

NUT-BASED PRODUCTS

Peanut butter, Nutella, almond milk, nut oils, and any other nut-based items.

ANY FOODS CONTAINING NUTS

Granola bars, cakes, biscuits, cookies, cereal bars, etc.

HOUMOUS

Contains sesame, another common allergen.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US KEEP OUR SCHOOL SAFE FOR ALL PUPILS!

If you have any questions or need help with nut-free lunch ideas, please contact the school office.

Thank you!

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