



## Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

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### School Year 2022/2023 Starting School

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope your child is settling well into school. This letter is to introduce you to the School Nursing Service, which you may access at any time from Reception until your child is 19.

You may remember that your child had a series of health and growth assessments by the Health Visiting team during the first 3 years of their life. School Nurses work in a similar way to Health Visitors, to provide assessments, advice, support and early help for health issues. School Nurse teams are based in a variety of locations across Northamptonshire, and are made up of Specialist Public Health Nurses, Community nurses, Healthy Child Practitioners, Community Nursery Nurses and School Nurses Assistants. School Nurses can be accessed in school or at community clinics. They work closely with other professionals/services such as schools, GPs, Social Workers, Paediatricians, Therapists, and mental health services.

The School Nurses offer a wide range of health services, for example:

- Sleep
- Toileting and continence
- Emotional and behavioural regulation
- Nutrition and healthy weight management
- Child development, including speech, communication and social difficulties

During the 2022-2023 academic year, you will receive an online Health Questionnaire from us via your school. The school are not able to see any information you put into the questionnaire, it is confidential. If you highlight any concerns in the questionnaire we will be touch with you.

### **NCMP**

During this academic year, your child's class will take part in the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) unless you choose to opt out. All children in England in Reception and year 6 are invited to take part in this programme. The NHS needs to have a good understanding of how children are growing across the country, so that the best possible health services can be provided for them. The information returned to the

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Chair: **Crishni Waring**

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**MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE  
FOR YOU,  
WITH YOU**

National Child Measurement Programme does not include the child's name, date of birth or address; it is simply their height and weight. You will receive a separate letter during your child's reception year regarding when this will take place and more details.

### **Dental Health**

If your child is not registered with a dentist, please look at the NHS Choices Website <http://www.nhs.uk/Service-Search> for local practices that are taking on new patients. Dental care is free for children and has a significant impact on general health. The following website has helpful information on children's dental care <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/taking-care-of-childrens-teeth/>

### **Hearing and Vision**

All children are entitled to an NHS funded vision assessment with a local Optician. It is recommended that children have regular eye tests at least once every 2 years. Reduced vision can have an impact on a child's learning and development. A sight test with an Optician is important because many abnormalities are treatable if discovered early but, if left untreated, can lead to vision loss and blindness. For more information visit [www.nhs.uk/childrens-eyes](http://www.nhs.uk/childrens-eyes) or [www.nhs.uk/service-search/Opticians/LocationSearch/9](http://www.nhs.uk/service-search/Opticians/LocationSearch/9)

If you have concerns about your child's hearing, please talk to your child's teacher in the first instance. You can contact the School Nursing team who can discuss your concerns and advise the best course of action. You may also seek advice from your GP. The sooner any hearing problem is found, the sooner you and your child will be able to get any treatment and support needed.

Signs of a possible hearing problem can include:

- Inattentiveness or poor concentration
- Not responding when their name is called
- Talking loudly and listening to the television at a high volume
- Difficulty pinpointing where a sound is coming from
- Mispronouncing words
- A change in their progress at school

### **Immunisations**

Is your child fully up to date with their immunisations? This is an ideal time to get your child up to date if they have missed any of their routine immunisations. If you are not sure, or to book an appointment for any missing immunisations please contact your GP surgery. If you would like to discuss any concerns or questions you have in relation to immunisations you can speak to a member of the school nurse team.

### **Medical Conditions in School:**

If your child has a medical condition which may require the school to provide medicine, intervention or support; they would benefit from having a health care plan. Please talk to your child's school about their medical needs and if you or school require support to create this care plan, you can contact us via the 0-19 Admin Hub.

We can be contacted via telephone or Live Chat, the details of which are on the top of this letter. We also have a website with a range of useful information about children's health <https://www.nhft.nhs.uk/childrenshub/>

We wish you and your family a happy and healthy start to school life.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'L Russell', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Louisa Russell  
Head of 0-19 Children's Services