Welcome back to the start of a new year,

I am Kelly Vaughan, your school’s community health nurse. I would like to outline the health priorities in the school for the year.

Our main areas are early intervention, health promotion and health expertise. This includes planning and implementing the school immunisation program. We aim to promote healthy development and wellbeing to assist students to reach their full potential. We cover a large area across the Avon and Central Wheatbelt so you will not see us in the school every day; however we can be contacted at any time either by phone or email.

Medical conditions
Up to date immunisation, medical and address details are essential (this includes medications) so the school can care for your child appropriately and contact you should the need arise. The school should be aware of any medical conditions or changes in your child’s health status including severe allergies. If your child requires medication or treatment, including an epipen, you must notify the school/classroom teacher, so that a health care or action plan can be put into place. The beginning of each term is a good opportunity to ensure that your child’s school emergency medication (i.e an asthma reliever or epipen) is NOT EXPIRED

Immunisation
Complete immunisation is a requirement for school entry. All children who have turned 4 should have had their 4 year old immunisations and a record provided to the school. If your child has not has their immunisations please make an appointment with your GP, or Avon and Central Primary Health Service @ 9690 1320 as soon as possible. If you are unsure if your child needs further vaccinations ring the Australia Childhood Immunisation Register @ 1800 653 809. Any child that is not fully immunised can be excluded from school and day-care for a period of up to 2 weeks during a disease outbreak.

School based immunisation program moved to Year 8
Please note that the school –based immunisation program, previously offered to Year 7 students, will be delivered in Year 8 starting in 2014. If your child is in Year 7 in 2013, they will receive their school vaccines in 2014 when they are in Year 8

In the 2013 school –based immunisation program, all male students in Years 8, 9 and 10 will be offered the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine series to protect them against developing a range of cancers and diseases. If your son is eligible for this vaccine, you will receive information and a consent form via your son’s school bag in 2013. Please be assured that all children will be provided an opportunity to access the school based vaccines during the program shift. If you require any further information, please contact the Central Immunisation Clinic on 9321 1312 during office hours.

Kindy Screening
All new students in Kindy, PP or Year 1 that have not had a health assessment previously will be offered one, this includes a hearing and vision check. Referral to the appropriate health service can be arranged if required. If you receive a health assessment form will you please sign giving your consent for the assessment and return to school ASAP.

Targeted Screening
Any concerns about your child’s vision, hearing, speech, movement, behaviour, development, growth or weight can be investigated, with referral to the appropriate health service if required. Please discuss these concerns with your child’s teacher and he/she can assist you in putting in a referral to the school health nurse.
Positive Parenting Program
Avon & Central Primary Health Service is pleased to offer the Positive Parenting Program in Term 1. This FREE 7 week program provide parents with practical advice on how to manage every day parenting problems and learn ways to help your child achieve their best at school and in the future. Parents are required to participate in 5 group sessions and two follow-up phone calls.

Time: TBC
Venue: Anne Wilmot Room, Northam Hospital
To register for the program please contact: 9690 1320 or email jess.stirzaker@health.wa.gov.au or lorissa.phillis@health.wa.gov.au

Health Promotion
As requested I can also provide the school community with information/education on growth and development, healthy eating, physical activity, hand washing, asthma and anaphylaxis information, and parenting resources.

Please feel free to contact me at any time in regard to your child's health needs. Kelly Vaughan Community Health Nurse Avon and Central Wheatbelt. Ph 9690 1320 email kelly.vaughan@health.wa.gov.au