

## **Banwell Buddies Procedure for cleaning our pet gerbils.**

### **Aim**

To ensure a high level of hygiene is maintained it is essential to clean the gerbil's habitat as required, a minimum of fortnightly, more regularly during the hot weather.

### **Method**

- Gloves should be worn throughout the process.
- All relevant equipment should be gathered before starting.
- Gerbils to be removed and placed in the spare cage.
- All toys, accessories and feeding equipment to be removed and cleaned.
- The contents of the cage to be emptied into the appropriate disposal unit.
- The cage to be washed out using the relevant cleaning product and dried with paper towels.
- Clean bedding is then placed into the clean cage, sawdust and soft bedding.
- All clean toys, accessories and feeding equipment are replaced.
- The water bottle is refilled
- Food is replenished
- The spare cage is then washed out, dried and replaced.
- Gloves are removed and disposed of.
- The surrounding area is swept, hovered and washed as required
- All hands are washed as an extra measure of hygiene
- Each time this process takes place it is recorded on the record sheet

### **General Information regarding the handling and care of gerbils**

- Everyone is required to wash hands after handling the gerbils
- The children are shown and able to participate in caring for the gerbils
- The children are taught the importance of cleanliness, and regular contact with the gerbils.