



Registered Address: Canford Heath Infant School, Learoyd Road, Poole, BH17 8PJ  
Telephone: 01202 380015  
Company Number: 09484306

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the new term begins and in line with our new attendance policy, I wanted to write to you about different illnesses and conditions which might affect your child/ren during the academic year.

We are fully aware that it can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they are unwell. There are government guidelines for schools about [managing specific infectious diseases](#) and when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

Please follow this advice for common illnesses:

### **Coughs and colds**

It's fine to send your child to school with a [cough](#) or [common cold](#). But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

### **High temperature**

If your child has a [high temperature](#), keep them off school until it goes away.

### **Chickenpox**

If your child has [chickenpox](#), keep them off school until the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared. It is not usually longer.

### **Cold sores**

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have a [cold sore](#). Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

### **Conjunctivitis**

You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have [conjunctivitis](#). Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

If they have symptoms and they feel well enough, they can still go to school. Your child should ONLY stay at home if they have a high temperature or really do not feel well enough to go to school.

### **Ear infection**

If your child has an [ear infection](#) and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away. You will probably need to seek advice from your GP.



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## **Hand, foot and mouth disease**

If your child has [hand, foot and mouth disease](#) but seems well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

## **Head lice and nits**

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice. You can treat [head lice and nits](#) without seeing a GP.

## **Impetigo**

If your child has [impetigo](#), they'll need treatment from a GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.

## **Ringworm**

If your child has [ringworm](#), see your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

## **Scarlet fever**

If your child has [scarlet fever](#), they'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

## **Slapped cheek syndrome**

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have [slapped cheek syndrome](#) because, once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. But let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.

## **Sore throat**

You can still send your child to school if they have a [sore throat](#). But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until the high temperature goes away. A sore throat and a high temperature can be symptoms of [tonsillitis](#) so it is likely you will need to consult with a GP.

## **Threadworms**

You don't need to keep your child off school if they have [threadworms](#). Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

## **Vomiting and diarrhoea**

Children with [diarrhoea and/or vomiting](#) do not need to stay away from school if the sickness and/or diarrhoea is due to a known reason, such as, high temperature, cough or croup, migraine or stomach migraine, irritable bowel syndrome, sun etc. They can return to school the following day.

Children should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for 2 days (48 hours) ONLY if they have a virus such as, Norovirus. Children who have recurrent sickness and/or diarrhoea should seek advice from their GP.



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Please be reminded that if you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school EVERY DAY your child is not attending school, to let us know that your child won't be in and give us the reason.

If your child is well enough to go to school, but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, please let their Class Teacher or the school's Medical Officer know.

I hope that this information proves helpful and gives further clarity.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Lesley Specterman  
Home Academy Liaison Officer



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