



# Dry Sandford Primary School

## A Parents' Guide to Illness and Medication

### Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell.

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 help us to reduce spread by letting their teacher know.

The following government guidelines advise you when children should be kept off school or not:

- **Chickenpox:** keep them off school until all of the spots have crusted over (usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared)
- **Cold sores:** no need to keep your child off school. 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:** no need to keep your child away from school. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.
- **Coughs and colds:** fine to attend school with a minor cough or cold, unless they have a fever. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.
- **Ear infection:** If your child has an ear infection with a fever, or severe earache causing them pain/discomfort, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their fever goes away.
- **Fever:** If your child has a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes away.
- **Hand, foot and mouth disease:** as long as they are well enough, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage them to throw away any used tissues and wash their hands regularly.
- **Head lice/nits:** no need to keep your child off school. Follow this advice: [how to get rid of them](#).
- **Impetigo:** they'll need antibiotic treatment from the GP. Keep them off school until all 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 towels, cups, etc.
- **Ringworm:** see your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see the GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.
- **Scarlet fever:** they'll need treatment with antibiotics from the GP, otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.
- **Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease):** no need keep your child off school because, once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Take them to the GP and let school know if they're diagnosed with it.
- **Sore throat:** you can still send your child to school but, if they also have a fever, they should stay at home until it goes away.
- **Threadworms:** you don't need to keep your child off school. Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.
- **Vomiting and diarrhoea:** children should stay away from school for 48 hours after the last incident of sickness or diarrhoea symptoms have gone.

#### What to do if your child is too unwell to attend school:

Please inform the school **before 9.30am** on **each day** that your child is absent due to illness. Contact the school office by phone **(01865 730432)** or email ([office.2565@dry-sandford.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.2565@dry-sandford.oxon.sch.uk)) and tell us the nature of your child's illness.

If your child attends school and feels unwell during the school day the school will contact you to arrange collection.

# Summary of our School Medication Policy:

## Prescribed Medication:

- **As a parent, you are encouraged to give medications at home whenever possible.**
- If your child is prescribed medicine which needs to be taken three times a day, you should, if at all possible, administer this at home, i.e. in the morning before they come to school, on reaching home after school and before bedtime.
- If your child has been prescribed antibiotics by a doctor and it is not possible to administer it outside of school hours, a member of staff will administer a maximum of **one** dosage of the prescribed medication during the day.
- Please ask the doctor or pharmacist, where possible to:
  - Prescribe dose frequencies which enable the medication to be taken outside of school hours.
  - Request medication is dispensed in two parts: one for home, one for school
- When **prescribed** medication is brought onto the premises, a parent/carer must **complete and sign** a medication form, giving details of dosage, timings, duration, reason for use and possible side effects: please ask the office staff for a copy or download from the school website.
- Prescribed medication **must** be in original containers (child proof), and have an affixed label with the child's name and **must** be delivered to school by a parent/carer or another designated adult, not by your child.
- All medication will be kept in the office or staff room, out of the reach of children. Please collect your child's medication at the end of the day and check that it has been administered.
- The school is required to keep a log of all administered medication.
- The school will make every effort to continue the administration of medication to a pupil whilst on trips away from school premises. However, there may be occasions when it may not be possible to include a pupil on a school trip if the appropriate supervision cannot be guaranteed.
- If your child suffers from a long term medical condition (such as asthma, a severe allergy, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.), the headteacher will endeavour to meet with you and medical professionals prior to his/her start date to draw up a Health Care Plan. Staff members will receive training on the specific condition and the methods of administration of treatment.
- If prescribed medication (eg. inhaler, epipen, insulin, etc.) is required as part of the Health Care Plan, it is the **parents' responsibility** to renew medication when supplies are running low and to ensure that the medication is within its expiry date.

## Over the Counter Medication:

- Painkillers (eg. calpol or nurofen), antihistamines or other over the counter medication will **only** be administered in **exceptional** circumstances after the **written consent of a doctor has been obtained.**