

Special Consideration in School

You need to inform school if your child has had hospital or surgical treatment and is returning to school with stitches or a plaster cast, or if they need to restrict their Physical Education lessons, break or lunchtimes. If your child has an on-going illness you may be required to come into school to discuss this.

Prescribed medication

Sometimes you may keep your child off school because they are taking a prescribed medication. In many cases schools are able to help your child to take their medication and prevent unnecessary absence. If your child's medication is to be taken 3 times per day, this can be done before and after school and bedtime to prevent disruption. If your child is taking prescribed medication during school time, the medicine must be clearly labelled with your child's name and handed into the school office with a note giving details of medication and dosage and authorising a member of staff to administer the medication to your child.

Informing School of Minor Illness

If your child is absent due to minor illness you **MUST** contact the school by 9am informing them of the reason for the absence and how long you expect it to last. It is helpful if you let the school know the nature of the illness to prevent it being spread to others in the school. **You do need to contact the school each morning of your child's continued absence.** Medical evidence may be requested to authorise your child's absence (appointment card, medication packaging, prescription etc.)

School Contact Details

You need to make sure that school have the correct emergency contact details for you. It is important that school is able to contact you during the day if necessary.

Help and Advice

For further advice you can talk to a member of school staff. If you need any further medical advice please call NHS 111, visit your local pharmacy, minor injuries unit or GP.

Absence Quick Guide

Child is considered too ill to attend school

DAY 1 of absence – inform school before 9am of reason and expected return date, any medical advice taken or visits made.

DAY 2, 3, 4 of absence – update school daily of your child's continued absence before 9am.

DAY 5 of absence – update school of your child's progress. Medical evidence will be required to authorise absence.

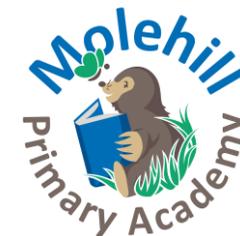
HEALTH TIPS

- Be registered with a GP
- Have regular checks with a dentist
- Enjoy a healthy diet and exercise
- Get enough sleep
- Be up-to-date with recommended vaccinations

NHS111 service (24 Hour) – 111

Minor Injuries Unit

Maidstone Hospital – 01622 729000



School Absence

Guidance for Parents Medical Appointments And Illness



“I don't feel well!”

This leaflet has been designed to help you make the right choices and to advise you on the correct action to take when your child is ill

Frequent absence is a serious problem for children as often most of the work they miss is not made up, leaving these children at a significant disadvantage for the remainder of their school career. There is a clear link between poor school attendance and low levels of achievement. Your help and support is required to address this problem as quickly as possible.

At present the main reason for pupil absence from school is illness. When deciding whether or not your child is too unwell to attend school, ask yourself the following questions:

- Is my child well enough to do the activities of the school day?
- Does my child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or staff?
- Would I be able to take a day off if I had this condition?

Think carefully before keeping your child away from school for medical reasons. If they wake up saying that they are unwell, consider whether the symptoms they have mean they need to stay at home. Do not keep your child away from school 'just in case' when they could be in class learning.

If your child requires a medical appointment these should be made outside school hours whenever possible. However, if your child has an appointment during school time an appointment slip should be given to reception to authorise the absence.

Common Conditions

If your child is ill, it is likely to be one of a few minor conditions. Whether you choose to send your child to school will depend on how severe you think the illness is. This guidance may assist you:

- Chicken Pox. Children should be kept at home until all vesicles have crusted over.
- Coughs & Colds. A child with a minor cough or cold may attend school. If the cold is accompanied by shivers or drowsiness, they should stay at home.
- Tonsillitis. Your child can attend school, many cases are due to viruses and do not need an antibiotic.

- Headache. A child with a headache does not normally need to be absent from school. If the headache is more severe, medical advice should be sought. If necessary, you can attend school during the day and administer medication to your child.
- Rashes. Rashes can be the first sign of many infections or diseases. If your child has a rash, check with a pharmacist, practice nurse or GP before sending to school.
- Toothache. School attendance should be maintained until your child can be seen by a dentist.
- Vomiting and/or Diarrhoea. Children with these symptoms should be kept at home for 48 hours from their last episode.

There is no reason for your child to be absent from school for minor ailments such as:

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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| *Athlete's Foot | *Sore Throat |
| *Cold Sores | *Threadworm |
| *Conjunctivitis | *Non-severe headaches |
| *Hand, Foot & Mouth | *Stomach ache |
| *Head Lice | *Warts & Verrucae |
| *Period Pains | *Slapped Cheek |
| *Ringworm | |

You should however, seek medical treatment for the above ailments. Confidential advice can be sought from most pharmacies.

Absences for Long Periods of Time

If your child is absent from school due to illness for more than three days, or is often absent from school periods, or if you may be asked for supporting evidence (appointment cards, etc.) to authorise the absence. If your child is frequently ill, the school can offer additional support and advice. If your child has had ten sessions of absence you will be invited in to school to discuss this.

Any child whose attendance falls below 90% will be expected to provide medical evidence for all absences unless arranged with the school prior to the absence. These absences will only be authorised if medical evidence is received.

More Serious Conditions

- **Asthma.** If your child has been diagnosed with Asthma you will need to inform the school. It is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure their child has an inhaler in school, labelled with their name, which is not out of date.
- **Broken Bones.** School can make arrangements, following medical advice, for children attending school with broken bones.
- **Eczema.** Children with eczema can attend school even whilst being treated. Children should only be absent on the advice of their GP when it is so severe.
- **Glandular Fever.** This infection is not caught by day to day contact; therefore your child does not need to stay away from school unless they feel too unwell to attend.
- **Impetigo.** If your child has, or you suspect they have, impetigo you must seek medical advice and keep your child away from school until sores have scabbed over and are healing, or 48 hours after the start of medication. Don't forget to wash your hands to prevent spreading!
- **Raised Temperature.** You can usually identify a raised temperature through your child looking shivery. There are lots of reasons for a raised temperature and if symptoms persist you should seek medical attention. As soon as your child is feeling better they can return to school.

At Molehill Primary Academy we take attendance very seriously and do not condone absence without a legitimate reason. However, if your child is unwell we appreciate they will need to have time of school.

PLEASE DO NOT KEEP YOUR CHILD OFF SCHOOL FOR ANY OTHER REASON WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT FROM THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL.