



Important School Attendance Notice to All Parents

Dear Parents/Carers

As we begin to welcome children and young people back for a new school year, the Department for Education (DfE) has provided us with a new clinical and public health perspective on mild illnesses and school attendance.

There is wide agreement among health and educational professionals that **school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people**. Being in school improves health, wellbeing and socialisation throughout the life course. The greatest benefits come from children and young people attending school regularly.

It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild illnesses. To help parents decide whether they should allow their child a day off school when poorly, The NHS has produced guidance on common illnesses. This guidance is available via the NHS – ‘*Is my child too ill for school?*’ webpage and underpins our decision on whether the reason provided for absence is to be authorised.

The NHS and DfE message is quite clear

It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with some common or minor illnesses. Common colds, minor coughs, sore throats or headaches alone do not mean they are too unwell to attend school.

In addition to mild illnesses, we are aware that more of our children have been absent from school due to symptoms of anxiety than before the pandemic. Worry and mild or moderate anxiety, whilst sometimes difficult emotions, can be a normal part of growing up for many children and young people. **Being in school can often help alleviate the underlying issues**. A prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child’s anxiety about attending in the future, rather than reduce it.

Please feel welcomed and encouraged to contact us at an early stage so we can work together to resolve any problems that may arise. This is nearly always successful.

Our support is always on offer to you and your children.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Moseley
Headteacher

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or call the School on (01255) 422942 if you are unable to access the Internet.

