



# Our Attendance Expectations

Our expectation is that all children should attend school every day. We do understand that on occasion, illnesses cannot be helped. Our 'Should I Send My Child to School?' guide will help you decide. For example, if your child has a headache or tummy ache, please give them some pain killers and when they feel better please send your child into school, even if the day has already started.

If your child is too unwell to attend school, please let us know, ideally by 8.30am every day, using the Arbor Parent Portal or App. This absence will be recorded as an illness, but will affect your child's attendance percentage. Medical evidence may be requested.

Where possible, please make any appointments outside of school time. If this is not possible please do let us know, giving plenty of notice. To do this please complete our online form, which can be found on our website under Our Families > Forms. This absence will be recorded as a medical appointment, but will affect your child's attendance percentage. Evidence of the appointment may be requested.

If your child is absent, due to illness for 4 days or more, the class teacher will make a welfare call to offer support for when your child returns to school.

If we begin to notice that your child's attendance is dropping and becoming a concern, or if we notice that there is a pattern with the days they are absent, the class teacher will make a welfare call to offer any support you may need.

Following this, if your child's attendance continues to fall, you will receive an Attendance Letter of Concern.

We will then continue to monitor your child's attendance with the expectation that it will improve. Every day your child is in school, their attendance will increase!

If your child's attendance does not improve, we will send out a second letter of concern requesting medical evidence for future absences. Without medical evidence any further absences will be recorded as unauthorised.

If your child's attendance does not improve, you will be invited to an Attendance Assessment Meeting, with our Designated Safeguarding Lead to see what we can put in place to offer any support you may need.

If there is no improvement a referral may be made to the Attendance Inclusion Officer at Surrey County Council. Parents will be invited to the next stage School Attendance Meeting. It may be decided that a penalty notice is to be issued to parents.

Please view the Attendance Policy for full information.



## **Improving Attendance by Fast-Tracking Medical Appointments with Pharmacy First**

With pupil attendance being a high priority for primary schools, I am writing to let you know about an NHS service that VSM Pharmacy in Camberley is offering for children (as well as adults) called Pharmacy First.

What is Pharmacy First?

For several common conditions, children and adults can get antibiotics and prescription-only medications prescribed at the pharmacy after attending a consultation with a specially trained pharmacist. These accessible healthcare consultations ensure children and staff get well and back to school as quickly as possible, by removing the need to wait for a GP appointment.

The service supports primary school-aged and older children in the age groups below, as well as your staff and parents/carers, who need help with:

- Earache (aged 1 to 17 years)
- Impetigo (aged 1 year and over)
- Infected insect bites (aged 1 year and over)
- Sore throats (aged 5 years and over)
- Sinusitis (aged 12 years and over)
- Urinary tract infections (UTIs) in women (aged 16 to 64 years)
- Shingles (aged 18 years and over)

How does Pharmacy First work in practice?

The pharmacist will provide advice and if clinically necessary, offer an NHS medicine to treat the condition. These medicines are free of charge to children under 16 years, with the normal NHS prescription charge rules applying to people aged 16 or over. The pharmacy will then send an electronic message to the person's GP surgery so their health record can be updated.

Next Steps

We are keen to raise awareness of the Pharmacy First service to parents/carers, so that if anyone has symptoms of any of the forementioned conditions, they know they can access advice and medicine (if clinically appropriate) quickly from VSM pharmacy.

If parents wish to book Pharmacy First services, they can do so using the link below. Alternatively, they can go in person and speak to a pharmacist.

<https://pharmacy-first.youcanbook.me/>

Yours sincerely,

Thierry Thielens, Pharmacist

# Should I send my child to school?

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

There are government guidelines for schools about health protection and managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK and below. These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

## Lots of help and guidance available:

[https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)  
<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/09/02/back-to-school-week-everything-you-need-to-know-about-school-attendance/>  
<https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>

### High Temperature

If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes away. A normal temperature in babies and children is about 36.4C, but this can vary slightly from child to child. A high temperature is 38C or more.

### Chicken Pox

If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

### My child has Covid-19 symptoms

If your child has mild symptoms and they feel well enough, they can still go to school. Your child should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have symptoms of Covid-19 **PLUS** either:  
\* a high temperature  
\* they do not feel well enough to go to school or do their normal activities

### What to do if your child has tested positive

Your child is no longer required to do a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test if they have symptoms. But if your child has tested positive for COVID-19, they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test.

### Feeling anxious or worried

It's normal for children to feel a little anxious sometimes. They may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can make a child's anxiety about going to school worse. It's good to talk about any worries they may have such as friendship problems, school work or sensory problems. You can also work with the school to find ways to help them. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, it might be good to talk to your GP.

### My child has one of the following common illnesses:

Feeling sick, sore tummy, cough, cold, cold sores, conjunctivitis, runny nose, blocked nose, sore throat, ear ache, ear infection, feeling tired. Unless your child has a temperature or is feeling really unwell, it is fine to send them into school with these illnesses. To make them feel better, please give your child a dose of pain relief before school. A visit to your local pharmacy could also help.

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.

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.

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.

### My child has vomiting and / or diarrhoea

Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school for 48 hours from the final bout.

### Unsure whether to send your poorly child to school?

Please use this helpful NHS Healthier Together website for help on whether to send your poorly child to school:

<https://frimley-healthiertogether.nhs.uk/parentscarers/child-unwell-ok-go-nurseryschool>

**"THIS MORNING,  
HE HAD A RUNNY  
NOSE... BUT LOOK  
AT HIM NOW!"**



**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**



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Head to the NHS website to find out more.



**IF YOUR CHILD IS  
FEELING UNDER  
THE WEATHER,**

**IT CAN BE HARD  
TO KNOW IF YOU  
SHOULD SEND  
THEM TO SCHOOL  
OR NOT.**



**UNLESS THEY HAVE A  
TEMPERATURE OF  
38 DEGREES OR ABOVE,  
THEY'RE USUALLY  
GOOD TO GO.**



SEARCH NHS SCHOOL  
ILLNESS GUIDANCE.



**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

**SCHOOL DAYS ARE  
PACKED WITH  
MOMENTS OF...**



**CURIOSITY, WONDER  
AND CONNECTION.**

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

SEARCH 'ATTENDANCE'  
ON THE EDUCATION HUB



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**"THIS MORNING, HE  
WAS WORRIED ABOUT  
SCHOOL... BUT LOOK  
AT HIM NOW!"**



**MOMENTS  
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Head to the Education Hub to find out more.



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