

## **SICKNESS AND MEDICATION POLICY**

While we respect that parents have to work and that it is not always easy getting time off to stay at home or to collect your children from school if they are ill, however, having a sick child at school puts the rest of the children and staff at risk.

Making the decision to send your children to school goes together with the chance of them picking up viruses, getting the flu etc. We keep our school as hygienic as possible, staff use gloves when changing the children's nappies, they sanitize their hands, toys are washed regularly, tables and chairs are wiped down after each use with disinfectant, dirty clothes are placed in nappy sacks etc.

With all of these precautions in place it does not help when children are sent to school when they are unwell.

Below is a list of illnesses that we have a **ZERO TOLERANCE** approach towards including but not limited to:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea (runny tummy)
- Thick yellow or green mucus coming from the nose, eyes or ears
- Persistent coughing
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- Fever or coming to school with a fever
- Head lice
- Ring worm
- Any childhood illnesses i.e. Measles, Mumps, Chickenpox etc.

Not only is it unfair to the other children but it is not fair to the child who is ill to have to spend the day at school not feeling well. A sick child needs to be at home, resting and should be given the chance to make a full recovery.

It is not expected that a child has to stay at home for a clear runny nose or a "change of season" cough but:

### **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MAY A CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL IF:**

- They have vomited in the last 24 hours.
- Had a runny tummy in the last 24 hours.
- Are on a new antibiotic and 24 hours have not passed from the first dose.
- Run a fever through the night and be sent to school with fever medication.
- Have head lice, ring worm or pink eye.
- Symptoms of a childhood illness or virus.

**ALL** medication must be left at reception at the dedicated medicine station and is NOT to be put into the children's bags.

Medication that requires refrigeration must be brought to the attention of the teacher so it can be stored in the refrigerator in the kitchen.

Multivitamins and tonics must be given at home.

Fever reducing medication and antihistamines (Allergex) are kept on site; should a child spike a fever whilst at school or present with symptoms of an allergic reaction, parents will be contacted for the necessary permissions. These permissions will be transferred into the medicine register at reception and parents are to sign the register when collecting their child.

Whenever possible parents must request from the doctor, medication that should be administered twice daily so it can be given at home *before* school and in the evening.

Parents are responsible for remembering to take their child's medication home.

**NO WRITTEN INSTRUCTION = NO MEDICINE!**

Any child that is identified as unwell will be removed from the class and will be made comfortable in the sick bay while waiting for parents to collect them.

Should a parent be notified that their child is ill, it is expected that the child is collected as promptly as possible.

**ALL** staff are CPR and first aid trained yet it is the responsibility of the class teacher to administer any medication. In the teachers absence the principal or administrator will assume that responsibility.

No sharing of medication between siblings is allowed. Each medication must be clearly labelled with the child's name and dosage as prescribed by the doctor. Should we find that a child has been using a certain medication for an extended period of time, we reserve the right to query this with the parent.

Our priority is the well-being of the children in our care. We are appealing to all parents to please think carefully before sending your child to school if you know they are not 100% well or run the risk of infecting other children.

All children react differently to the environment, some have allergies and others are more susceptible picking up germs. If we do not have FULL co-operation from parents with regards to their children's health all the children run the risk of getting sick.

This medication and illness policy forms part of the General Code of Conduct of our school and is in accordance with health departments rules and regulations.