

Illness and absence from school

A guide for parents and carers

Keeping your child in school

If your child is away from school for any reason it will have an impact on their learning.

There is a link between poor attendance and low levels of achievement. As a parent it is natural to want the best for your child and so you want to take care of them when they are ill.

However, we know that sometimes parents keep their children away from school when they do not need to.

Once initial treatment has been received, there is no need to keep your child away from school if they have any of the following conditions:

Athlete's foot	Cold sores	Slapped cheek disease	Head lice
Glandular fever	Tonsillitis	Sore throat	Cold
Toothache	Earache	Headache	Cough
Verrucae	Ringworm	Warts	

If your child is ill and you are unsure whether they could be in school please call your GP or the school office for advice.

You should not send your child to school if they have any unexplained rashes, a high temperature, are suffering from diarrhoea and/or have vomited.

The school office number is:
01795 880279 (All Saints) or 01795 878111 (St Clement)

It is school policy to ring every day before 9.15am if your child is absent unless medical evidence has been provided to indicate a prolonged absence.

Parent/Carers who do not report the absence of their child by 9.15am will still be charged for their child's school meal (where applicable). This applies to parent/carers also removing children for medical appointments before lunch without informing the school in advance.

If no reason is provided, a text will be sent to the primary contact and you may receive a phone call home. If we do not hear from you, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

If your child is absent for longer than five consecutive days (a full school week), **medical evidence of illness must be brought to the office.** This can include a copy of the child's prescription, a note from your doctor or medicine labels.



If sufficient evidence is not provided, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Keep your child healthy

Always get them to wash their hands:

After using the toilet
After playing with animals
Before eating food



If they have a cold:

Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing and sneezing
Wash hands and discard tissue after use



Remember:

- If you need to make a medical appointment for your child, try and make it out of school hours. If there is no alternative, appointment cards/letters must be brought to the office so a copy can be made and so the absence can be authorised.
- If your child must attend an appointment any siblings should be in school. Alternative drop off or pick up arrangements should be made to ensure their education is not impacted by an appointment that is not theirs. These absences will not be authorised.
- Parents **should not** be removing their child/ren for their own appointments. Alternative drop off or pick up arrangements should be made. These absences will not be authorised.
- Three days absence in a month due to illness would still mean your child may be counted as a persistent absentee.
- If the school has reason to believe your child is absent without a genuine reason, we could take action or discuss your child with the Local Authority. This may result in you receiving a fine.

**For more medical
information you can visit:**

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk
www.hpa.org.uk