

## Every Day Counts...

### Your child's attendance matters!

#### Should my child stay home from school?



Parents often ask us if their child should be in school. If your child has no temperature but has a minor cough or cold you should send them to school. We will always contact you if your child's condition worsens or if we believe it is contagious such as chicken pox, vomiting. Please be aware that your child will be expected to go outside to play and take part in usual routine activities such as PE.

Did you know that the average illness rate at Hatch Warren Infant School is 3.2%. If your child is too unwell to attend school, please phone the school office (01256) 350313 by 9.30am on the first day of absence and let us know. If we do not know why your child is absent, we will phone you. Please send in a note explaining your child's absence.

**Please Note:** Regulations for schools give the headteacher the right to consider whether to accept the parent/carers position with regard to medical absence - and may decide to unauthorise any particular absence. If your child is kept off school as you, as a parent are unwell, their absence will be unauthorised. Please arrange for someone else to bring your child to school in these circumstances.

#### Preventing or minimizing illnesses -- it can be done!

One way to lessen the number of days your child needs to stay home is to prevent the illness in the first place. Childhood immunisations can prevent many diseases, such as measles and mumps. Many illnesses can also be prevented through proper hygiene.

**CATCH IT, BIN IT, KILL IT**



There are two attendance sessions every day and missing school for a whole day counts as two absences so...

#### Some hygiene reminders for your children -

- Not to share food
- Not to share drinks
- Not to share clothing
- To throw away used tissues
- To wash hands frequently using soap or hand sanitiser



#### Medical/Dental/Optician Appointments

Whenever possible make all medical appointments at the end of the school day or outside school hours. If an appointment is made in school time your child should come to school first and/or return after their appointment. Please be aware that the absence or illness of a pupil should NOT affect the education of their siblings. If a pupil has an appointment (particularly at the beginning or end of the school day) arrangements should be made to ensure that the other sibling is either dropped off or collected from school on time.



#### Absent but able to learn

If your child is absent due to a long term or contagious illness but is able to work at times, please access the resources via the school website or Wikispace.



Our school policy on illness is based on direct advice & guidance from the Department for Education. The DfE rule of thumb is '[whether the ailment would keep parents and teachers away from work?](#)'.

Type of Illness	NHS recommended period to be kept away from school	NHS further advice/comments <a href="http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Yourchildatschool/Pages/Illness.aspx">http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Yourchildatschool/Pages/Illness.aspx</a>
Diarrhoea/vomiting	48 hrs since last episode	
Flu	Until recovered	
Whooping Cough	5 days from commencement of antibiotics or 21 days from onset if no antibiotic treatment	After treatment non-infectious coughing may continue for many weeks. Vaccination is available
Conjunctivitis	None	
Head Lice	None if the hair has been treated	Recommend use of proprietary hair conditioner combed through the hair with a nit comb.
Mumps	5 days from onset of swelling (vaccination)	Mumps in teenage children can cause other serious medical complications
Thread Worms	None	Treatment is required for the child and household contacts
Tonsillitis	Until they are well enough to come to school	There are many causes, most are due to viruses and do not need antibiotics
Chicken Pox	5 days from onset of rash or until spots are crusted over - common March- May	Chicken Pox can affect pregnant women if they have not already had the infection - please call school
Cold Sores	None	Avoid contact with the sores
German Measles	5 days from the onset of rash can be vaccinated against	If pregnant women or children under 13months come into contact with this they should inform the GP immediately. Please call school
Hand, Foot & Mouth	Until they are well enough to come to school	
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted and healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotics	Antibiotics can speed the healing process and reduce the infectious period
Measles	4 days from the onset of rash	If a pregnant woman comes into contact with German Measles she should inform her GP immediately. Please call school
Slapped Cheek	None - most cases are caught late winter -early spring	Pregnant women, people with weak immune systems or blood disorders who come into contact with this should contact GP. Please call school
Warts & Verrucae	None	Verrucae should be covered in swimming pools, gyms & changing rms.



### Long Term or Chronic Medical Conditions

Please talk to us if your child has a chronic or long term illness as there are a number of ways your child can maintain some education - such as hospital schools or teaching services, home teaching and education centres. We will always aim to support your child in being able to continue some form of education; and we will work closely with you and your child to ensure that we maintain the right balance so your child can keep up whilst checking the type and amount of school work that your child does is appropriate for them and their medical condition.

### So what impact can this have?

Lisa is in Year 1 and her attendance rate at school is always around 90%. Lisa and her family think this is pretty good!  
If Lisa continues to attend for only 90% of the time, then over five years she will miss the equivalent of about one-half of a school year.



90% attendance for Lisa = 20 days absence = 4 weeks of school missed

- 2 days sore throat - Sept
- 5 days with cold and cough- Dec
- 2 days of dental appt 6 month check up
- 1 day taken off at the end of term to go shopping
- 1 day upset stomach - March
- 2 days high fever - virus - June
- 5 days authorised leave of absence for holiday
- 1 day birthday treat
- 1 day two doctors appointments in the morning

Did you know that of pupils who miss between 10 per cent and 20 per cent of school, only 35 per cent manage to go on and achieve five A\* to C GCSEs including English and maths. This compares to 73 per cent of pupils with over 95 per cent attendance. (DfE 2011)