

Attendance Newsletter

It is expected that your child is in school every day and our attendance target is 97%. Covid has brought many challenges to attendance. The government expectation is that every child is now attending school and schools are expected to challenge poor attendance

Current Covid Situation

COVID19 is now classed as an infectious illness and as such does have recommendations for isolation to prevent its spread just like other illnesses such as Sickness/diarrhoea for 48 hours after last bout and Chicken Pox which requires isolation until the spots have scabbed over. The school office can advise on illness isolation requirements and please see the information at the end of this update.

When should my child return to school?

Chicken Pox When all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis None*	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever None*	Hand, foot & mouth None*	Impetigo When lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies After first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Slapped Cheek None*	Whooping Cough 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
	Flu Until recovered	Head Lice None*	Threadworms None*	Tonsillitis None*	


This information is based on the [Public Health Agency guide - full copy here](#)
*No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed.


COVID19

1. How is the stay at home period counted for those who have a positive test?

For a person with a positive test, the stay at home period is 3 full days from the first symptom or positive test which is counted as day 0. For example, if a child has no symptoms but has a positive test on Monday then Tuesday is day 1, Weds day 2, Thurs day 3 and they can return on Friday if they are still well and their temperature is normal.

So if your child has isolated for 3 full days and has no temperature then they are well enough to come into school. However, we would balance this with common sense too, so if you feel your child is still poorly then keep them at home until you think they are well enough to return.

2. My child has all the symptoms of COVID but I don't have any tests.

If your child is unwell with COVID symptoms (latest list shown below) or any other illness then as above ensure they are well enough to be in school.

NHS latest advice on COVID19 symptoms:

Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are very similar to symptoms of other illnesses, such as colds and flu. These include:

- *a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)*
- *a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours*
- *a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste*
- *shortness of breath*
- *feeling tired or exhausted*
- *an aching body*
- *a headache*
- *a sore throat*
- *a blocked or runny nose*
- *loss of appetite*
- *diarrhoea*
- *feeling sick or being sick*

If you have any of these symptoms and you have a high temperature, you should not go to work or attend school.

You can go back to your normal activities when you feel better or do not have a high temperature.

We want children's attendance to be rising, every lost day = lost education. However we are yet again going into a new phase of living with COVID and many staff and children have continued to be ill with COVID over the break so if in doubt ring us and as always, we will decide the best next steps together.

Illness

We ask that you contact the office on the first day of absence by email or phone giving details of your child's absence – we will ask for more detail if you just tell us they are unwell! Please also give an indication of how long you think they will be absent. Please then give school an update before return. We may phone for updates during an absence.

Home learning

The statutory requirement for school to provide home-learning for those who are isolating has now ended. If your child is absent from school with illness we will not routinely be setting home-learning as we did during the pandemic. We advise that your child continues to read, accesses online activities such as TTRockstars and finds out more about their current topic if they are well enough to complete short activities. In the event of a class or school closure, school will provide home-learning. If your child has longer term illness/absence for school, a discussion will take place between school and home about how we can support your child's education.

Medical Appointments

We ask that medical appointments are, as far as possible, made outside of school hours. If they cannot be arranged at this time, please provide school with a copy of the medical appointment letter for our records. If you take a sibling out of school to attend their brother/sister's appointment, this is an unauthorised absence as the appointment does not relate to them and should only happen if you genuinely have no alternative. This also related to appointments for the parent, we cannot authorise a child's attendance as it

is not their appointment. Sometimes when your child is ill it is difficult to decide whether or not to send your child into school, the NHS have produced this useful guide.

Fixed Penalty Notices apply to all types of unauthorised absence, not just those accrued through holidays in term time. Holidays within term time cannot be authorised by school.

If 10 or more unauthorised absences (1 absence = ½ day) are accrued over two consecutive terms then school will consult the LA on the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice. The cost of which is £60 per parent per child if paid within 21 days increasing to £120 per parent per child to be paid within 28 days - if remains unpaid, will be processed to Court for prosecution. These Fixed Penalty Notices have been introduced as part of the government's drive to improve attendance. Please see our attendance policy on the website. Please be honest about absence from school. The children, and their friends, do tell us when you have gone away!

COVID19 and the isolation periods earlier in the year have impacted on children's attendance across school. There are many children who have attendance less than 90% which in the eyes of the DFE means they are considered a persistent absentee.

DID YOU KNOW

End of year attendance % can be summed up as missed education:

- 98% attendance means that your child has missed 4 days in the school year
- 95% attendance means that your child has missed 10 days in the school year
- 90% attendance means that your child has missed 19 days in the school year
- 80% attendance means that your child has missed 38 days in the school year
- 5 minutes late each day means three whole days lost each year



Of the 365 days in a year, 190 are for school and therefore there are 175 days to spend at home on family time, holidays, appointments, household jobs, visits, shopping etc. Every day missed from school does impact on your child both with their education, their friendships, confidence and social skills

Please work with us to ensure your child is in school.

Kind regards

Mrs Chesters and the Wybunbury Delves Team