



PRAE WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL
Everyone Valued, Everyone Learning

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing just to clarify our policy on administering medicines during the school day and also the procedures to follow if your child is unwell in term-time.

If a child is unwell at home, then please consider whether they should be in school. We do not want children to stay home unnecessarily and they should come to school with a cough or cold, as long as they can still manage to learn and enjoy school. However if your child has a temperature or has been sick, this may be indicative of some kind of 'bug' that will be passed around the class if they come into school still not fully recovered

When children have been sick they should stay off school for at least 24 hours after the last episode of sickness, and we usually advise 48 hours when we have lots of stomach upsets around.

If your child has recovered from an illness but still has to complete their course of medication, then your child can return to school and that medicine can be administered in school, if you have completed the correct form and an adult has brought the medicine to the office. If at all possible we ask you to give these 3-times-daily medicines at home (before school, immediately on collection at 3.15, and then at bedtime) to avoid having to administer them in school.

Please never send any medicine, even over-the-counter medication, into school with your child.

If your child is not feeling well, please consider whether you should be sending them into school. We have had a growing number of children in school with 'just-in-case' medicine to be taken if their headache or tummy ache continues or gets worse. When parents have signed the form to say this, it effectively means that children as young as 6 or 7 are self-medicating by deciding whether their tummy ache is bad enough to be taking more Calpol, which is not really a good situation for us to be encouraging. It also means that we need to make sure that we communicate to whoever is collecting that child what time they took their last dose of Calpol, so that they are not given more immediately on arriving home, perhaps within an hour of the last dose. This takes time from other office tasks and places an extra responsibility on all staff that can be worrying if someone forgets to pass on a message, so we will no longer be doing this in these circumstances. In specific situations where children need pain relief eg. after a dental visit, following a broken arm, etc, parents will need to complete a medicine form.

As working parents ourselves we fully understand the difficulties of needing to be in 2 places at the same time when children are ill and it makes getting into work difficult. However we all have a responsibility towards the other children in school to try to make sure that sickness bugs etc do not get passed around if that is avoidable by keeping children at home until they are fully recovered. Children who are in school feeling unwell will not be able to learn and this will inevitably mean that staff will have to be involved in looking after them, sometimes cleaning up if they have been sick, and then taking time to

call parents and get hold of someone to collect them. However well we look after them, it is not much fun having to sit in the office and wait to be collected after you've thrown up.

If you have any questions about this subject, please feel free to contact us.

Kind regards

Jenny Sheppard
Headteacher