



News from the Nest

Friday 21st November 2025

ATTENDANCE UPDATE - When is my child too ill for School?

Supporting Good Attendance through care, clarity and inclusion



At Wren's Nest, we know that regular school attendance is one of the biggest factors in helping our children succeed. Our **Attendance Policy 2025** and **Inclusive Attendance approach** are designed to work in partnership with families - supporting every child to be in school, on time, every day **when they are well enough to attend**.

We also understand that sometimes children become unwell. It can be difficult to know whether they should stay at home or still come to school. This guide is here to help.

General Principle

Children should attend school **unless they are too unwell to take part in the normal school day**. Many mild illnesses can be safely managed in school, and our staff are trained to support children with minor symptoms.

If you are unsure, please talk to us - we are here to help.

Common Illnesses: should they attend?

✓ Okay to come to school:

- **Mild coughs or colds**
As long as they have no high temperature and feel generally okay.
- **Sore throat**
If mild and not accompanied by fever.
- **Headache**
Often manageable with rest, water and reassurance.
- **Tiredness**
Sometimes part of a routine day; school can still be attended.
- **Minor aches and pains**
If manageable and no fever present.

To help your child who is feeling a little under the weather, maybe give them Calpol first thing in the morning.

We are more than happy for you to then pop into school at lunchtime to administer more Calpol to help your child through the rest of their school day.

Our Inclusive Attendance approach encourages families to contact us for early support if these symptoms become frequent. We can work together to explore underlying causes (e.g., sleep, routine, wellbeing.)

X Stay at Home (and let us know):

Fever / High Temperature

Your child should stay at home until their temperature has returned to normal for 24 hours **without medication**.

Vomiting or Diarrhoea

Children must remain off school for **48 hours after the last episode**, in line with Public Health guidance.

Contagious Infections

Examples include:

- Chickenpox (stay home until all spots have scabbed over)
- Impetigo (48 hours after starting treatment or until sores are crusted)
- Scarlet fever (24 hours after starting antibiotics)

Please call the school to inform us—we can give you guidance.

Severe Cough or Breathing Difficulties

Keep your child at home and seek medical advice if symptoms stop them participating in school activities.

Serious lack of energy, severe pain, or symptoms that prevent normal functioning

If your child is unable to engage with learning, rest at home is best.

Our Inclusive Support Offer

At Wren's Nest, we look at attendance in the context of the whole child. If illness, anxiety, medical needs or wider family circumstances are affecting attendance, our team can help with:

- Pastoral and wellbeing support
- Adjusted start times where appropriate
- Individual attendance plans
- Work with health professionals
- Support for pupils with long-term or fluctuating health conditions

Please reach out early — **support works best when we work together**.

Reporting an Absence

Please contact school **before 9:00am** on each day of illness.
You can do this via the main school office on **01384 818515** or
through either of the school **mobile phones**.

Let us know:

- Your child's name and class
- The reason for absence
- Expected return date (if known)

This helps us keep our records accurate and ensures your child's safety.

Together for better attendance

Good attendance supports learning, friendships, wellbeing and long-term outcomes. Thank you for working with us to ensure that children are in school whenever they are well enough.

If you'd like personalised guidance or have concerns about your child's health or attendance, our Attendance Team is here to help.

Many thanks with your ongoing support regarding good attendance at Wren's Nest,



Mrs Parkes and Mrs Smith

Headteacher and DSL and Attendance Champion at Wren's Nest

