

Is my child too ill for school?

Many of you may already be aware of the government guidelines for schools and nurseries to follow that say when children should be kept home from school if they have an infection and when they can return to school. Below is a helpful table to help make the decision as to whether your child should be in school.

If your child is well enough to go to school but requires medication or antibiotics, we are able to administer these medications in school. You will need to bring the medication to the office and sign a Parental Agreement for the Administration of Medicines form.

The medication must be:

- In-date
- Labelled with your child's name and instructions for administration, dosage and storage
- Provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist (the exception to this is insulin, in an insulin pen or pump)

Common infections and the recommended exclusion periods for your child to stay home from school:

Infection:	Can my child come to school?	How long should your child stay at home?
Chicken Pox	No	Usually 5 days. All spots must be scabbed over before returning to school.
Cold Sores	Yes	Encourage your child not to touch the infected area, wash their hands regularly and avoid sharing cups/cutlery etc.
Conjunctivitis	Yes	As long as they are being treated, your child can go to school once treatment has started . Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.
Coughs and Colds	Yes	Unless there is a high fever (see High Fever below) children should continue to come to school.
Diarrhoea and/ or vomiting	No	If part of a viral infection, the child may return 48 hours after the last episode. Please speak to the school office if your child has vomited once and recovered afterwards for further clarification of their return to school.
German Measles	No	Four days from onset of rash.
Earache	Yes	Sometimes pain relief eases discomfort. If the pain is accompanied by a High Fever, then your child should stay home until you have sought advice.
E Coli	No	May return 24 hours after the last episode.
High Fever (above 38.0c/100.4f)	If your child has a fever of 38.0c/100.4f or higher, they are likely to be too unwell for school. If your child feels well in themselves and displays no other symptoms, they can come to school. (As mentioned above, the school can administer Calpol/ Ibuprofen if provided with consent)	
Flu (influenza)	No	Until recovered.
Hand, Foot and Mouth	Yes	Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly.

Head Lice	Yes	Check your child's hair regularly and treat if needed.
Impetigo	No	Antibiotic treatment may be needed. Keep off school until all the sores have scabbed over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage hand washing regularly, don't share towels, cups etc.
Injuries to Limbs	Yes	Children with broken/fractured bones or injuries may come to school but we ask you to inform the office if any special arrangements need to be made e.g. if your child is using crutches/ has a plaster cast or their arm is in a sling
Measles	No	Four days from onset of rash
Mumps	No	Five days from onset of rash
Ringworm	Yes	As long as they are being treated. See your pharmacist unless it's on the scalp, in which case you should see the GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.
Scabies	No	24 hours after first treatment. Antibiotic treatment is recommended.
Scarlet Fever	No	24 hours after first treatment. Antibiotic treatment is recommended otherwise they'll be infectious for 2-3 weeks.
Slapped Cheek Syndrome	Yes	Once the rash appears they are no longer infectious.
Shingles	No	Keep at home if the rash is weeping or cannot be covered. Can cause Chickenpox in those that are not immune. It is spread by very close contact and touch.
Sore Throat	Yes	Sometimes pain relief eases discomfort. If the pain is accompanied by a High Fever, then your child should stay home until you have sought advice.
Threadworms	Yes	As long as they are being treated. See your pharmacist for advice on treatment.
Tonsillitis	Yes	There are many causes, but in most cases are due to viruses and do not need antibiotic treatment.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to inform us each day that they are absent, by 9.30am, by calling the school office on 0208 680 0747 or emailing attendance@parkhill-inf.croydon.sch.uk