



St Stephen's C of E First School  
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Principal: Mrs Sarah Callanan (BEd Hons)

13.11.25

Dear Parents,

Attendance has been an issue this term due to the pesky bugs and chicken pox. We were hoping that the half term break would break the spread. An unusual number of children have had to have time off due to this, which is completely understandable.

Moving forward to help our children get back on track, please can I reiterate that it is really important that where possible that you send your child to school daily unless they are really ill. As you are aware phonics is taught daily, and the pace of phonics means that children who are not at school for even a week are at risk of falling behind the group they should be in. So please send your child into school unless your child really is just too unwell.


You **should not** keep children off school for:

1. Had a bad night. Send them in, they will sleep better the next night.
2. If you have an appointment, try to get someone else to bring them in. Try to avoid booking appointments over drop off and pick up times. (Hospital appointments are not changeable and we understand that you cannot change them.)
3. Holidays: we cannot authorise them, so please refrain from booking during term time.
4. Try to keep appointments for your child to outside of school hours where possible, if not as near to the end of the school day as possible. (Unless hospital or very urgent.)
5. Children do not need to be kept off school for coughs or colds.
6. For sick bugs keep children off school for 24 hours, if well enough they can come back to school after. (Early Years is 48 hours.)

The pace of the curriculum is rapid, and we want to ensure each and every child has the very best education possible. This is about ensuring all our children are equipped to access the next stage of their education, and ultimately their opportunities as young adults to do well in life. We can only do this if children are at school unless absolutely unavoidable.

We are grateful for your ongoing support with this.

Thank you.



Sarah Callanan  
Executive Headteacher  
St Stephen's CofE First School