



Dear Parents/carers, please find below a letter I was asked to distribute from Doncaster County Council. I would like to thank you for all your support, this week, to meet our National Attendance percentage and I hope you will continue to support the Attendance Officer and myself to ensure this is a good school for all your children to attend (as parents and children of Moorends' community deserve this right).

Kind Regards

Julie Woodward - Acting Head Teacher



City of
Doncaster
Council

Dear Head Teacher,

Back-to-school advice for schools and parents/carers

Thank you for continuing to look after the health of our children and young people at your school. I would greatly appreciate if you can also share this letter with parents/carers of children in your school. Schools and parents are urged to take simple steps to give their children the best start to the new school term and protect their communities following the Christmas break. As levels of winter illnesses including flu, COVID-19 and norovirus continue to rise, schools and parents/carers are being reminded of a few simple steps they can take to reduce viruses and other infections spreading in the community – helping their children make a healthy start to the year and minimising the impact of illness on attendance as schools head back and parents return to work.

Encouraging good hand-washing habits

This is one of the most effective ways to stop the spread. Regularly wash hands in soap and warm water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser when convenient. Please note that sanitizer doesn't work on Norovirus / stomach germs! Using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, binning it and then washing hands will help prevent infection from spreading. Measures can be taken to prevent and control airborne spread infections, such as ventilation, to prevent respiratory particles from spreading where there is no close contact between people.

Get vaccinated

Vaccination offers the best protection against flu and is given as a quick and painless nasal spray for children. However, vaccine uptake amongst pre-school children is one of the lowest, despite the illness being more serious for this ages group in some cases. Children eligible for the flu vaccine include: • children aged 2 to 3 years old on 31 August in 2023 • all primary school-aged children (reception to year 6) • secondary school-aged children (year 7 to year 11) children aged 6 months and older with long-term health conditions Similar to the flu vaccine, there has been a drop in uptake of routine childhood immunisations, which protect children against diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria and polio. You can take a look at the childhood vaccination schedule to make sure your child is up to date with all their vaccinations.

Scabies

Schools and parents are reminded to be aware of scabies in their children and young people. Scabies is a skin infection caused by tiny mites that burrow in the skin. The appearance of the rash varies but most people have tiny pimples and nodules on their skin. The scabies mites are attracted to skin folds such as the webs of the fingers. Burrows may also be seen on the wrists, palms, elbows, genitalia and buttocks. Spread is most commonly by direct contact with the affected skin. The rash usually spreads across the whole body, apart from the head. Scabies remains infectious until treated. Exclude affected children from nursery or primary school settings until after the first treatment has been completed. Older children can attend school settings with advice to avoid close skin contact with others until after the first treatment has been completed.

Dr Victor Joseph, MPH, Dip Epid(FPH), FFPH, FRSPH, Dip Management, PhD Consultant in Public Health

Thank you for keeping your children safe and we will continue to follow this guidance in school, to keep your children safe in education. **Thanks again, parents of West Road, for all you do.** My door is always open for those who wish to speak with me about the challenges of sending your children to school, everyday, I am always here to help you or listen to your concerns.