

12 October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Myton School Attendance Matters

We hope this message finds you well and that your family is adjusting to the new school year. We would like to take a moment to stress the importance of student attendance and share some vital information provided by the Department for Education (DfE), which can significantly impact your child's educational journey.

On 5 September 2023, the DfE issued a letter to school leaders containing guidance from esteemed medical professionals, including the Chief Medical Officer, Royal College of Nursing, Royal College of General Practitioners, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, Royal Society for Public Health, and Royal College of Psychiatrists. This guidance is crucial for all parents and carers to be aware of as we navigate the challenges of the school year ahead.

The DfE guidance emphasises that it is typically appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school when they exhibit mild respiratory illnesses. Such symptoms may include a minor cough, runny nose, or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. This precautionary measure is essential for the safety and well-being of all students and staff in our school community.

In line with this guidance, we strongly encourage parents and carers to familiarise themselves with the NHS "Is my child too ill for school?" guidance, which provides further information to help you make informed decisions about your child's attendance during minor illnesses: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Additionally, the guidance acknowledges that more children may experience anxiety-related symptoms compared to before the pandemic. Worry and mild or moderate anxiety, while challenging emotions, can be a normal part of growing up for many children and young people. Attending school can often help alleviate the underlying issues associated with these feelings. It is worth noting that a prolonged period of absence is more likely to heighten a child's anxiety about attending school in the future, rather than reduce it.

As we approach the winter season, we encourage parents and carers to consider the importance of high uptake of seasonal flu vaccinations and routine immunizations for eligible children and young people. These measures can significantly reduce absences and the disruption they may cause to your child's education and well-being.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and together, we can ensure a healthy and successful school year for all our students.

Yours sincerely

M Aynsley

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