

Executive Headteacher: Ms Sarah Jane Bellerby

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the winter months, we are likely to see an increase of illnesses amongst the children.

We have procedures in place should there be an outbreak of any illnesses at Mulberry Wood Wharf, and I have also completed training on managing outbreaks of illnesses in Early Years settings. I regularly monitor the attendance of the pupils to look for any patterns of illnesses.

Whilst we don't have an outbreak of any specific illness at Mulberry Wood Wharf, we have noticed that, before the half-term break, many children have been off school because of a high temperature, a cough and for some children, vomiting which can be because of coughing. A high temperature is an obvious sign that a child is unwell, and their bodies are fighting a viral or bacterial infection.

I have included a sheet called 'Should I keep my child off school?' Please read this and take note of the guidance so that you minimise the risk of spreading your child's illness to others.

We also recommend you contact your GP or 111 for advice if you think your child requires treatment.

To minimise the spread of illnesses at Mulberry Wood Wharf we:

- Support children to 'catch it, bin it, kill it' when they sneeze and then wash their hands with warm soapy water afterwards
- Support children to cough into their inner elbow
- Wash their hands after using the bathroom
- Wash their hands before eating snacks or lunch
- Contact parents of children we think are unwell enough to be at school or who have a high temperature

It is worth noting that the only way you get sick is when your body comes into contact with a harmful virus, bacteria, or fungus. Cold air may irritate a condition you already have, like asthma, which could make your body more receptive to a cold virus.

I understand the worry illnesses can cause parents and I appreciate the impact it has on our day-to-day lives in terms of childcare. Please ensure that you follow the guidance so that we minimise the risk of spreading infections in what is a very infectious time.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bellerby', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sarah Jane Bellerby  
Executive Headteacher