



Friday, December 5, 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your families are well. We are writing to you to emphasise just how important good school attendance is, not only for your child's learning, but for their health, wellbeing and long-term success. Stockwell's attendance has improved rapidly since the beginning of the year, and we want to maintain our children's good attendance, but we also want to remind parents and carers of the expectations around childhood illness and when children should (and should not) come in to school.

Attending school regularly helps children keep up with their learning, build steady progress, and avoid falling behind. School is where children learn not only academically, but socially — making friends, feeling included, and developing important life skills. Repeated or prolonged absence can affect a child's confidence, sense of belonging and motivation.

When it's OK to send your child in — and when to keep them home

The NHS provides straightforward guidance on whether your child is well enough for school.

According to NHS advice:

- If your child has a **mild cough, runny nose or sore throat**, but is otherwise well, they can usually attend school.
- However, keep your child at home if they have a **high temperature (fever)**. Children should only return when they are well and fever-free.
- If children have **diarrhoea or vomiting**, they should stay off school until at least 48 hours after the last episode.
- For contagious illnesses like some rashes, chickenpox, scarlet fever, or other infectious diseases — follow medical advice before sending your child back. Please ensure that you inform the school if your child has an infectious disease so that we can keep the school community safe.
- If you are **unsure whether your child is well enough, it's always best to check [NHS Guidance for Parents](#)**: Is my child too ill for school? — a useful resource to help parents decide when children should stay at home.

Please inform the school as soon as possible if your child is going to be absent due to illness. Our policy is that parents should call (or message) on the morning of the first day of absence. If we do not hear from you, we will place a call to you to check on your child.

Protecting health: Vaccinations and immunisations

An equally important way to safeguard your child's health — and keep school attendance high — is through vaccinations. The NHS routine childhood immunisation programme is designed to protect children from serious illnesses such as measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, polio, whooping cough, and more.

Vaccinations:

- Help protect your child from serious disease,
- Help prevent the spread of infections in schools and the wider community — especially protecting those who cannot be vaccinated,

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- Are free and available through your GP or school-age immunisation services.

The school nursing team administered flu vaccinations earlier this year. If your child was unable to take up this offer, please make an appointment with your doctor or visit a local health or Children's Centre.

We strongly encourage all parents to check their child's vaccination records and make sure they are up to date. If your child has missed any routine immunisations, please get in touch with your GP to arrange them as soon as possible.

Good attendance is more than just being in class — it supports your child's learning, social development, health, and future opportunities. By following NHS guidance about when to keep children home for illness, and supporting vaccination uptake, we can help minimise avoidable absences, protect everyone's health, and make sure all children benefit from the full school experience.

As we enter the coldest months of the school year, please ensure that you take the necessary precautions to maintain your child's good attendance, but also ensure that your child is safe and well.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

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