



PERRYFIELDS INFANT SCHOOL

MEDICINES IN SCHOOL

We believe that young children who are sick or in pain should be at home. We will contact you if your child is feeling ill so that you can collect them as soon as possible. If your child is ill during the night, please keep them at home for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. I am sure you will appreciate how quickly germs spread amongst young children (and staff), so please err on the side of caution.

ASTHMATIC CHILDREN

The local authority advises that asthmatic children should keep their own inhalers with them. **However**, we do not think that infant children should have this responsibility because:

They might lose them.

Other children could use an inhaler that is not prescribed for them.

Children's inhalers are stored safely in the office and taken on all external trips.

Hopefully, those with asthma do inhale from a "preventer" each morning. We then like to keep an instant inhaler for them in case of immediate need. If you leave one in the office, please ensure it is clearly named and that you replace it regularly. In case of emergencies, the school has an 'emergency inhaler', which children can access if parental written consent has been received. **It is the responsibility of the parents/carers to ensure their child's inhaler is clearly named, in its original box with the prescription label, is in date, is disposed of correctly and a spacer is provided.**

It is usually only recommended to use the blue inhaler in response to asthma symptoms, such as a tight chest, wheezing, coughing or shortness of breath. If your child requires and has their inhaler during school time, you will be informed by the class teacher or by receiving a blue inhaler form. The exception to this is if the doctor or asthma nurse has suggested having it before physical activity, which may be known to cause symptoms in that individual child.

However, if anyone needs their blue inhaler regularly, more than three times a week or requests their child has their inhaler at regular intervals it is a sign that their asthma may not be as well controlled as it could be. In this case, parents/carers should seek medical advice and make an appointment with the asthma nurse to have their preventer medication reviewed. If your child needs to take any extra medicines during school hours, give the teacher and office staff a guidance note/letter from your GP or asthma nurse.

If you have any updates about your child's asthma please speak to the class teacher, provide the office with these updates in writing, and make changes to their school Asthma Card.

ANAPHYLACTIC SHOCK

Anaphylaxis is a dangerous type of allergic reaction, which is most likely to be caused by particular foods, insect bites or medicines. Severe reactions could involve breathing difficulty, coughing and/or wheezing, loss of colour and loss of consciousness. We would call 999 and tell the operator that we suspect the child has anaphylaxis. If the child has already been prescribed an adrenaline injection then the named EpiPen or injection device for the child will be correctly used. Children's EpiPens are stored safely in the office and taken on all external trips. Staff are trained to make sure they know the correct way to use it in advance of an emergency. Staff are made aware of which children have severe allergic reactions. **It is the responsibility of the parents/carers to ensure they leave an EpiPen in the office, making sure it is clearly named and that it is replaced regularly and kept in date.**

ADMINISTERING MEDICINES

THERE IS NO LEGAL DUTY THAT REQUIRES ANY MEMBER OF SCHOOL STAFF TO ADMINISTER MEDICINES.

All explanations of children's illnesses, dietary needs or other problems need to be in writing. Verbal messages are unacceptable.

School staff are not allowed to administer medicine of any kind. If your child is prescribed a course of antibiotics to be administered 3 times a day – the guidelines from the School Medical Officer is that doses may be given

1. Before school.
2. After school.
3. At bedtime.

However, if 4 doses need to be administered during the day, parents (or their nominated representative) may come to school at lunchtime to administer the medicine themselves. A record of this will be kept in the school office.

You may find it useful to look at the 'Infection Control' document and the 'A parent's guide to common childhood illnesses' on our website www.perryfieldsinfantschool.org.uk under the Parent Information tab.

<http://midessexccg.nhs.uk/your-health-services/your-health/childhood-illnesses>