

November 2018

# Winter bugs / illness



The winter has arrived, and sadly along with the cold weather and dark nights we see an increase in illness and infection.

Being vigilant about hygiene and minimising the spread of infection to others is really important. Within our nurseries we have strict cleaning schedules (which are increased should we be struck by any ongoing bugs), but there are times we will ask you to refrain from bringing your children in to nursery / or ring you to collect them, to ensure we reduce the spread.

Sometimes we may ask you to get a GP's diagnosis, this is to ensure the child receives the proper treatment if necessary, but also helps us maintain the monitoring of cases to report to the HPA (health protection agency) should we need to.

The NHS and local health protection agency provide us with general guidelines on exclusion periods (our policy for your records is attached) however in some instances we do have to make a judgement to override these to help reduce the spread of infection. At times we have children in the setting with underlying conditions that make them more susceptible to becoming very ill very quickly and of course we have many expectant mum's passing through our doors.

We don't like to see any of the children poorly and care the best we can for them, but we cannot give the 1-1 attention that is sometimes needed and deserved to bring the children back to full health as quickly as possible. We do not wish to inconvenience parents and understand how difficult it can be to lose time and pay from work, but at times it is essential.

We thank you in advance for your co-operation in adhering to our illness and infection policy.