The Meadows

Cheeky Chimps Childcare

Illness and disease policy:

Your children are still developing their immune system and when at nursery, they spend a lot of time with other children and adults. This means they will come into contact with some viruses and infections. This is how their immune system evolves and strengthens.

If your child is unwell, and has something that others may catch, please keep them at home. They will be happier and more comfortable. This will also help to reduce the spread of infection. Even if your child is no longer contagious, it can take few days for the child to be well enough to attend the nursery.

Which illnesses mean my child should stay at home:

Your child should not attend the nursery if they have any of the following:

- A **fever**. This is a temperature of 38C or above (100.4F). They should not go to nursery until their temperature returns to normal or they start to feel better, and their temperature can be regulated without Calpol or other over the counted medication.
- An illness of the airways such as **bronchiolitis** or the **Flu**. Keep your child at home until they are better, particularly if they have a **fever** alongside this. If your child has **whooping cough**, they can attend the setting 2 full days after starting antibiotics if they are well enough. However, if your child has a **common cold**, it is not necessary for them to stay at home unless they are feeling very poorly.
- **Diarrhoea and vomiting.** If your child has been sick or has diarrhoea, you will need to keep them up home until they have had **2 full days clear** of these.
- **Conjunctivitis.** This can be uncomfortable for your child, but they do not necessarily need to be at home if they are well. However, if several children have conjunctivitis, the nursery may ask you to keep your child at home until the outbreak has cleared.
- **A contagious skin disease such as impetigo.** You can send your child back to nursery 2 full days after the have started medical treatment or antibiotics or when the sores have crusted over. If they have **scabies or ringworm, they** can return to nursery after 1 full day of treatment or until they are no longer contagious.

With different illnesses and diseases, we will follow the government guidelines on “Guidance Managing specific infectious diseases: A to Z, Updated ‘’7 September 2026”.

If your child has a rash with a fever, or shows signs of illness, please keep them at home. It can often be a sign of an infectious disease, such as:

- **Chickenpox.** Your child is not to return to the setting until 5 days from their last spot appearing AND until all the scabs/spots have crusted over and they are feeling well within themselves.
- **Hand foot and mouth disease.** Children are welcome to attend nursery as long as have no temperature and well within themselves.
- **Scarlet fever.** Scarlet fever is highly infectious and is spread by close contact with someone carrying the bacteria. Children can attend after 24 hours after they started treatment with antibiotics and have no temperature and well within themselves.
- **Roseola.** Wait until your child seems well enough to attend the nursery. You do not need to wait until the spots have disappeared.
- **Measles.** Wait four days from when the rash appears before bringing them into nursery, children can attend after 4 full days as long as they have no temperature and are well. Parents to seek medical advice from their GP..

- **Slapped cheek syndrome.** This is no longer infectious once the rash has appeared, so your child can attend the nursery if they are well enough.
- **Meningococcal meningitis** Children can attend after 24 hours after they started treatment with antibiotics and have no temperature and well within themselves

If your child has a rash that is not linked to a fever or any other symptom, they can attend the setting. If this rash appears while in the setting, we will contact you and may advise you to seek medical advice.

This is not a definitive list as the nursery will use the ‘““Guidance Managing specific infectious diseases: A to Z, Updated ‘’7 September 2026”.

If we believe a child in our care is suffering from a notifiable disease identified as such in the Public Health (infectious diseases) regulations 1988, we will act on advice given by the Health Protection Agency and inform Ofsted of any action taken.

Long term illness:

If a child has a long-term illness or condition, this requires the management team to put relevant risk assessments or care plans into place to ensure the needs of the child is met and understood and so staff can be trained in any specialist care needed. A child may not be able to attend temporarily whilst the nursery ensures the appropriate actions and training are completed to meet the child’s needs.

Hygiene:

As part of our approach to keep children safe when they are in our care, we promote good health and take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infections within our nursery.

Children are encouraged to wash their hands regularly with warm water and soap. We encourage them to wash their hands before and after mealtimes, after messy play, when coming into the nursery, when coming in from the garden and after using the toilet. The children will use disposable hand towels to dry their hands.

If your child has a nap with us, we will allocate them their own bedding for the week and wash this after their last session of the week. This is to ensure they have clean bedding at the start of each week. If the bedding is made dirty throughout the week, we will provide new clean bedding.

Within each room there is a tissue station to promote children to use tissues for coughs and runny noses. We will also encourage children to wash their hands after wiping their nose or coughing/sneezing.

All spillages of bodily fluids will be cleaned up immediately and the area will be disinfected with an anti-bacterial solution. We will wear disposable gloves and aprons for changing nappies and cleaning up bodily fluids. We will discard of these after each use into the hygiene bin.

Illness on arrival:

If a child arrives at the setting with an illness that requires exclusion, we will refuse entry to the nursery as per the required exclusion period.
Children who have minor illnesses, can become distressed and upset therefore, it may be in their best interest to stay home with a family member. We will request that they are collected immediately if we feel they are not well enough to be in the setting.

We have a duty of care to the children attending and the staff to make every effort to limit the contact and spread of any illness and disease. Please be mindful that we may have visitors in the setting with low immune systems or they may be pregnant.

If a staff member is ill or has a confirmed infectious disease, they will be subject to the same exclusions and another member of staff will provide cover.

In extreme cases of illness or high volumes of minor cases, we will inform all parents if appropriate to do so.

Sickness and diarrhoea:

Sickness/vomiting- If the child has been sick at the nursery, parents/carers will be phoned to collect. The child will not be able to return to nursery until they have had two full days clear. If they are sick at home, your child will not be able to attend the nursery until they are two full days clear.

Diarrhoea- If the child has 3 loose stools/diarrhoea the parents will be called to collect. The child will not be able to attend the nursery until they have had two full days clear. If the child has this at home, they will not be able to attend the nursery until they are two full days clear. The amount of loose stools before sending a child home, is down to management's discretion depending on the loose stool itself and other factors that may be relevant.

In both cases we will take into account non-illnesses, medication and eating disorders.

Illness during attendance:

If a child becomes ill while at nursery or we believe they have an infectious illness or disease that requires exclusion, the following procedure will be carried out:

- Isolate the child with a member or staff to avoid the illness or disease spreading.
- Contact the parents/carers to arrange immediate collection of the child.
- If we cannot reach the primary carer after 15 minutes, we will contact their emergency contact.
- Ensure that the child is excluded from the setting until they have been well for the specific periods, or in accordance with the guidelines. ("Guidance Managing specific infectious diseases: A to Z, Updated ''7 September 2026".
- Failure or refusal to collect will leave the nursery with no options but to contact MASH (social services) for advice and guidance. This may affect your child's place within the setting until we receive guarantees that policies will be followed. If unresolved, the nursery will give 4 weeks' notice.

Absence:

The Meadows Cheeky chimps understand that at times children may be late to their session or to unwell to attend. If this is the case, the session will still need to be paid for in full as their place would have been reserved and staff would have been arranged for their care.

Some over the counter medicines, like Calpol or Nurofen can mask more serious symptoms and illnesses. Any child that requires non-prescribed medicines to get them through the day

should not attend the nursery and may be refused entry at drop of. Parents/carers are not permitted to attend the setting to administer non-prescribed medication.

Exemptions:

- Children with fractures or other injuries unrelated to illness, may be able to attend if they are not in discomfort but a risk assessment will need to be put into place. Parents may administer pain relief on the premises if the child has no other illness symptoms.
- Non-alcoholic teething gel can be administered by staff without a medication form.

Please refer to our medicines and vaccinations policy

Gemma Farrar 13.9.2026 Review 13.9.2027

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