

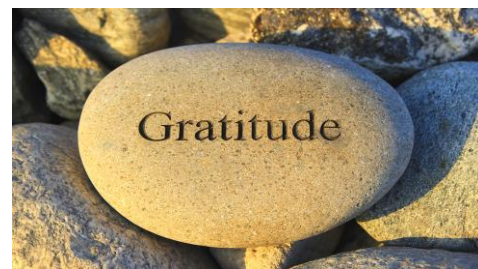


17th January 2024

Newsletter Spring 1

Dear Families,

The character values, which the children are learning about this month, are Optimism and Gratitude. We have talked to the children about what these values might look like in day to day practical terms, both at school and at home. The children may have mentioned our work with the charitable organisation 'SuperKind', which we have started this term. We will be encouraging each class to design their own project, in order to become change makers and have a positive impact on society. They have come up with some fabulous ideas already, so watch this space to see the projects coming to life!



Administering medication in school

It has been requested by several parents recently that school administer prescribed medication to their child on a 3 times per day prescription. Our policy states that when medicine is prescribed by a doctor to be taken 3 times per day, then this should be done outside of the school day where possible. Our school follows NHS guidance for schools and the government guidelines for supporting children with medical conditions.

Please find the policy on our website by clicking the link.

https://morpeth-first-school.eschools.co.uk/storage/secure_download/c3JgQ25VTDA3bkJ2RW1oa2hKTENVdz09

The relevant section of the policy is below;

Responsibility of Parents

In modern terminology the term 'parent' is understood to mean not just a parent but anyone who has parental responsibility for the care of a child. Parents have the principal responsibility for the administration of medication to their children, who have the right to be educated with their peers, regardless of any short or long-term needs for medication whilst at school. **Wherever possible, medication should be given at home by parents. If prescribed medicines are to be taken three or more times per day, parents should ask the prescribing doctor if the administration of the medication can occur outside normal school hours.**

Generally, non-prescription over the counter medication (such as cold remedies, cough medicines, hay fever eye drops etc) will not be administered in school. However, in some circumstances the school may consider administering certain medication and each request received by a parent to do so will be assessed individually. An 'Administration of Medication to Pupils - Agreement between Parents and School' form' (appendix 1) will be required in all cases before any medication can be administered. Further information can be found within the 'Non-Prescribed Medication' section on page 12.

The parents have the principal duty to inform the school of their children's medical conditions and to make a request for medication to be administered in school.

This can occur if the child:

- has been newly diagnosed
- is due to return after a long absence and has a chronic illness or long-term complaints, such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy or another condition
- is recovering from a short-term illness and is well enough to return to school whilst still receiving a course of antibiotics or other medication.
- has needs that have changed
- is due to attend a new school

The NHS guidance for schools states that;

Where clinically possible, medicines should be prescribed in dose frequencies which enable them to be taken outside school hours. Ideally once or twice daily medications should be purchased or prescribed for children to avoid the need for dosages to be given during school hours. Antibiotics should not routinely be given in school. Three times a day antibiotic, such as amoxicillin, can be given in the morning before school, immediately after school (provided this is possible) and at bedtime. It should normally only be necessary to give antibiotics in a school setting if the dose needs to be given four times per day.

If parents are concerned about the length of time between their child's 1st and 2nd dose of medicine on a 3 times per day prescription then, as always, you or a trusted adult are welcome to come in and administer the medicine. Staff in school can only administer medication over a lunchtime period, and do so on a voluntary basis, when it is a 4 times per day prescription.

Healthy snacks

Can I remind all parents that the children in Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with a healthy fruit snack every day, so there is no need to send in food with your child, unless this has been agreed with their teacher. Children in Years 3 and 4 are encouraged to bring in a healthy snack to have at playtime, which should be fruit or vegetables only (no nuts please). Thank you.

NSPCC online gaming safety opportunity for parents

Many of our children have told us about the games consoles that they received for Christmas and we know how excited they are to be using them. Although many of the games that the children are involved in may be standalone games, we are aware that some children are involved with online games or have older siblings that take part in these.

As part of the NSPCC Game Safe Festival in February 2024, the NSPCC will be encouraging adults to have conversations with the children in their lives about online gaming. The webinar 'Keeping children safe while gaming online' will give parents an understanding of how young people game online and some tools and resources that can help to keep your children safe. There will be expert advice from GamCare and parents will hear tips from young people on how to help keep children safe whilst online gaming. Tickets for the virtual event are free. If you are interested, just click the link below 'Find out more' and book your place.

Workshop details: 7th February, 7pm-8pm (virtual session)

Visit the page: [Game Safe Festival](#)

Find out more: [Workshop for parents, carers and those working with families](#)

Kind regards,
Nadine Fielding
Head teacher