

Dear Parent

Asthma is a common condition in childhood; most children who have asthma can control their symptoms with regular medication, and participate fully in day-to-day activities.

Some children with asthma can occasionally experience increased symptoms that mean they have to go to hospital for treatment.

Our records show that in September, many more children go to hospital with increased asthma symptoms than at any other time of year.

This increase in asthma symptoms may be due to the fact that some children experience fewer symptoms during the summer holidays, and sometimes forget to take their asthma medication regularly.

Ensuring your child takes their "preventer" asthma medication regularly during the summer holidays and throughout the year will help your child to control their asthma symptoms in the best possible way, and will reduce their risk of being admitted to hospital.


Please use the school holidays as an opportunity to arrange your child's asthma review at the GP surgery, and to ask for an individual "wheezy child" management plan if you do not already have one. The management plan will help you, your child, and anyone who cares for them to manage their asthma symptoms. Copies should be taken to school in September to help guide teachers in managing your child's asthma.

We know that many children do not use their inhalers and spacer devices correctly, meaning that the medication doesn't always work effectively. You can have your child's inhaler technique checked at your local pharmacy or as part of their asthma review at the GP surgery.

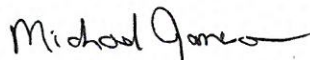
Ensuring that your child has their annual flu vaccine this winter will also reduce the risk of asthma attacks.

If you have any questions about this letter please discuss it with your practice nurse or GP.

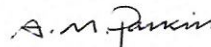
Yours sincerely



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