



The Special Needs Nursing Team Newsletter

Some parents may already know me but if you don't please let me introduce myself, my name is Jo Forshaw and I am the Children's Nurse based on site at Acorns school. I work on site part time my usual working pattern is 8:30-16:00 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday's, every other Thursday.

The Specialist Schools in Preston and Chorley are part of a larger integrated team (Children's Integrated Therapies & Nursing Team). There is a registered Band 5 nurse for each school. The team covers Acorns Primary School, Sir Tom Finney High School (Preston), the Coppice (Bamber Bridge) and Mayfield (Chorley).

Our primary role is to support children with additional medical needs and their families in a variety of ways either at home or in school

There is health input from various professionals including; Community Consultant Paediatrician, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist, Dentist, Dietician, Audiology, Orthoptist, Paediatric Outreach, Learning Disability Teams, Psychologists, Psychiatrists and C.P.N's. General Paediatricians from the hospital, Paediatric Neurologist, Geneticist, and the Complex Needs Team.

Part of my role at Acorns is to support and advice Children and Families with any medical needs.

I complete care plans if your child requires one, and update these on an annual basis. I provide various training to Parents and Families and Education staff. This may be regarding: Gastrostomy, Tracheostomy, Medications and Suctioning, Oxygen. I carry out continence assessments for children aged 4 years and above and review their needs regularly. I attend multi-disciplinary meetings as necessary and have an open door policy for Parents. If at any time you need to contact me please call in on one of my working days or ring me (contact details listed below). I will always try to help with any issues and can offer home visits if needed.



Medications in school:

Education staff within class administer medication following my guidance and supervision.

Consent forms need to be completed and signed and medication needs to be prescribed for the child with a prescription label present. Please send in a sealed bottle and we will keep this in school for the child. When the medication is running low a reminder letter will be sent out. Please note only medications which need to be administered 3 times a day or more will be administered in school as anything less can be given at home. There are some exceptions e.g. Reflux medications.

- ❖ **Please remember to send in all equipment for your child into school e.g.: syringes, extension sets.**

Antibiotics:

Schools policy for Antibiotics is as follows:

Half the prescribed medication needs to be administered prior to the child returning to school if the infection present is contagious e.g. Tonsillitis.

Therefore if a child who is prescribed a 7 day course needs to have 3 and a half days of the medication and also to be feeling better before returning to school. You are welcome to send the Antibiotic into school if your child requires a dose in school time and staff will return this to home at the end of the day as its important the course of Anti Biotic is completed for the medication to be effective, even if your child feels better.

If your child is prescribed an Antibiotic for a non-infectious condition e.g. Gastrostomy Infection they are fine to be in school and the medication can be sent in if needed.

Please remember we want children in school as much as possible however they need to be feeling well so they are ready and willing to learn. Please be aware that some of our children who attend Acorns have various medical conditions and therefore this makes them more prone to infections. Therefore it is important if your child is unwell to keep them off school until they are fully recovered.





As a special needs nurse on site one of my roles is to assist with training Parents to care and change Gastrostomy Buttons. If you have any concerns about your child's Gastrostomy site please do not hesitate to contact me on 01772 792681/ 07946668178. As a qualified Children's Nurse I am able to support you in changing your child's Gastrostomy button if you require, I can also ensure it is the correct size by measuring the site.

Please remember to put a spare Gastrostomy button in your child's school bag as their spare button in case of emergency's

Clinic Reviews at Acorns:

Community Clinics take place within school usually on a Monday morning. Our current Community Paediatric Consultant is Dr Hall who is based at Ashton Health Centre in Preston. These clinics are held at Acorns in an effort to make them easier for parents and children to attend as they are familiar with the environment and it doesn't disrupt the school day as they don't miss much time out of class. It is important you attend and it's a great chance to discuss any medical concerns with Dr Hall, following the appointment Dr Hall will request to review your child after 6 months or 1 year depending on the concerns raised. If there are no concerns she may review your child's needs on request from yourselves or school if they have concerns regarding your child's medical needs. You will receive an appointment to Dr Hall's clinic through the post to your home address. If you are unable to make the scheduled appointment please can you inform the admin team – contact details will be on the letter. This will mean we can rearrange your appointment for another time to suit you, please note that clinics are always held on a Monday morning. This will also mean we don't get any non-attendance of appointments.



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