

Dear Headteacher,

I am writing to let you know about an NHS service which is available in Boots pharmacies across England, called the **NHS Pharmacy First Service**.

**NHS Pharmacy First Service** enables children and adults to get convenient access to advise and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment. There is no need to make an appointment with the pharmacy and parents or carers can pop into their local pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service.

All Pharmacy First patients have a private consultation with a pharmacist, who provides advice and, if clinically appropriate, offer to supply treatment for the condition\*. Should the pharmacist be unable to help, they will direct the person to their GP surgery or other healthcare professional as appropriate.

With the ever-increasing pressures on the NHS, particularly during these busy months, it is important to us, that we do all we can to support and we would really like your help in driving awareness of this fantastic service to your parents and carers and to encourage them to think **Pharmacy First**.

To support you with this, we have created a template communication on the second page of this letter which you could use in your regular communications to highlight the service to parents and carers.

A summary of the service is available as an [animation](#) and more information can also be found at [How pharmacies can help - NHS](#) as well as at [Pharmacy First Service](#).

Community Pharmacy England, who represent community pharmacy owners in England, have created a suite of resources for use by schools; you can use any that would suit your methods of communication with parents and carers to raise awareness of this important service. All these resources are available at [Information on national pharmacy services - Community Pharmacy England](#).

We hope the detail in this communication has been helpful. Please contact your local Boots Pharmacy if you have any questions or need any further support.

Your local Boots Pharmacy is:

Best wishes,

\*Treatment provided under the service are supplied free of charge to children under 16 years, with normal NHS prescription charge rules applying to people aged 16 years or over).

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## NHS Pharmacy First Service

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment?

Accessing the service may mean that we can help children feel better and help get them back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents and carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service.

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local Boots pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service.

Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply):

<u>Common condition</u>	<u>Patient eligibility</u>
Earache	Aged 1 to 17 years
Impetigo	Aged 1 year and over
Infected insect bites and stings	Aged 1 year and over
Shingles	Aged 18 years and over
Sinusitis	Aged 12 years and over
Shingles	Aged 5 years and over
Uncomplicated Urinary Tract Infections (UTI)	Women ages 16 to 64 years

Yours sincerely,

**Headteacher's name**

\*NHS Pharmacy First Service: In pharmacies in England only. Subject to availability. Treatment is subject to suitability assessment. Normal NHS prescription charge rules apply.

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