



## **Bonneygrove Primary School**

Executive Headteacher: Mr Craig Hamilton BEd (Hons.), NPQH

**Bonneygrove Primary School and Millbrook Primary School Federation**

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Dear Parents and Carers

It has been brought to my attention that a number of children have developed a red rash. Some parents/carers have advised us that they believe this may be linked to caterpillars.

To be clear, for the last four years our oak trees have been a nesting place for oak processionary moths. The caterpillars from these moths have tiny hairs which can cause skin irritation and rashes in some people.

Over two days, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026, a specialist tree company removed all visible nests and treated the trees to reduce the risk of the caterpillars returning. We have checked the trees again today and there are currently no visible nests or caterpillars.

As an additional precaution, we have asked the specialist company to return and carry out a further professional inspection of the trees. We are hopeful that this visit will take place on Monday.

We have also become aware that some ants' nests may have been disturbed on the school field. In the UK, some ants found in grassy areas, such as red ants and occasionally wood ants, may bite or sting if their nests in the soil or grass are disturbed. We have therefore asked our grounds maintenance company to come in and complete a sweep of the field so that this can be addressed.

During hot weather, children spend time on the fields and under the trees. We are also aware that some children may experience heat rash in warmer conditions, which is one of the reasons we have asked children to wear PE kits during this period.

Until the specialists have visited and we have received further advice, we have temporarily closed Reception's outside area as a precaution.

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If your child develops a rash and you believe they may have come into contact with caterpillar hairs, the following steps may help:

- Use adhesive tape, such as duct tape, to gently remove any shed hairs from the skin.
- Wash the affected area thoroughly with soap and cool water.
- Please try to stop your child from scratching the rash, as this may make the irritation worse.
- Itching may be relieved with ice packs or calamine lotion.

If you believe your child may have been bitten or stung by ants, washing the area with soap and water and using a cold compress may help to reduce discomfort.

If your child's symptoms are severe, if the rash worsens, or if they experience eye irritation, throat irritation, breathing difficulties or signs of an allergic reaction, please seek medical advice promptly from a pharmacist, GP, NHS 111 or emergency services as appropriate.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and will update parents and carers if there is any further information following the specialist inspections.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely



Mr Craig Hamilton  
Executive Headteacher  
Bonneygrove and Millbrook Primary Federation