

14<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Head Teacher / Teacher / Educator,

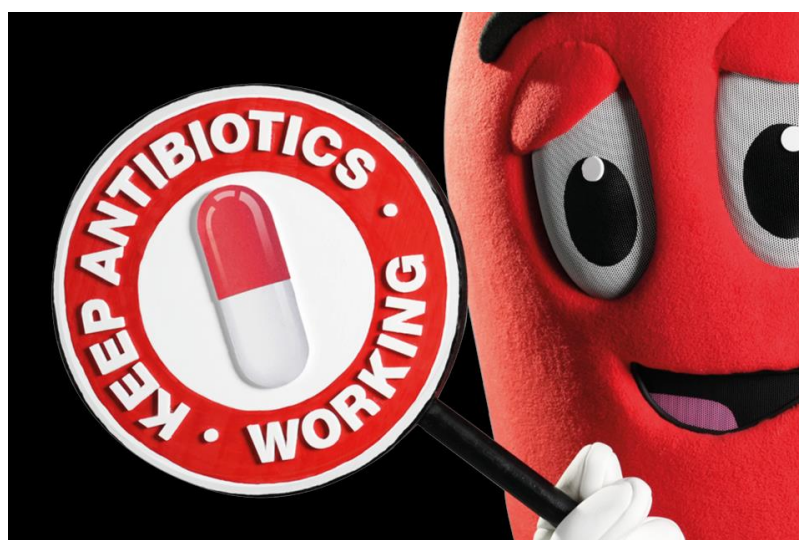
The discovery of antibiotics has been crucial to modern medicine, however persistently overusing and misusing antibiotics in humans, animals, plants, and the environment, has given rise to the emergence of drug-resistant bacteria.

**Please help us protect these life-saving medicines and support the Antibiotic Guardian campaign to Keep Antibiotics Working Globally.**

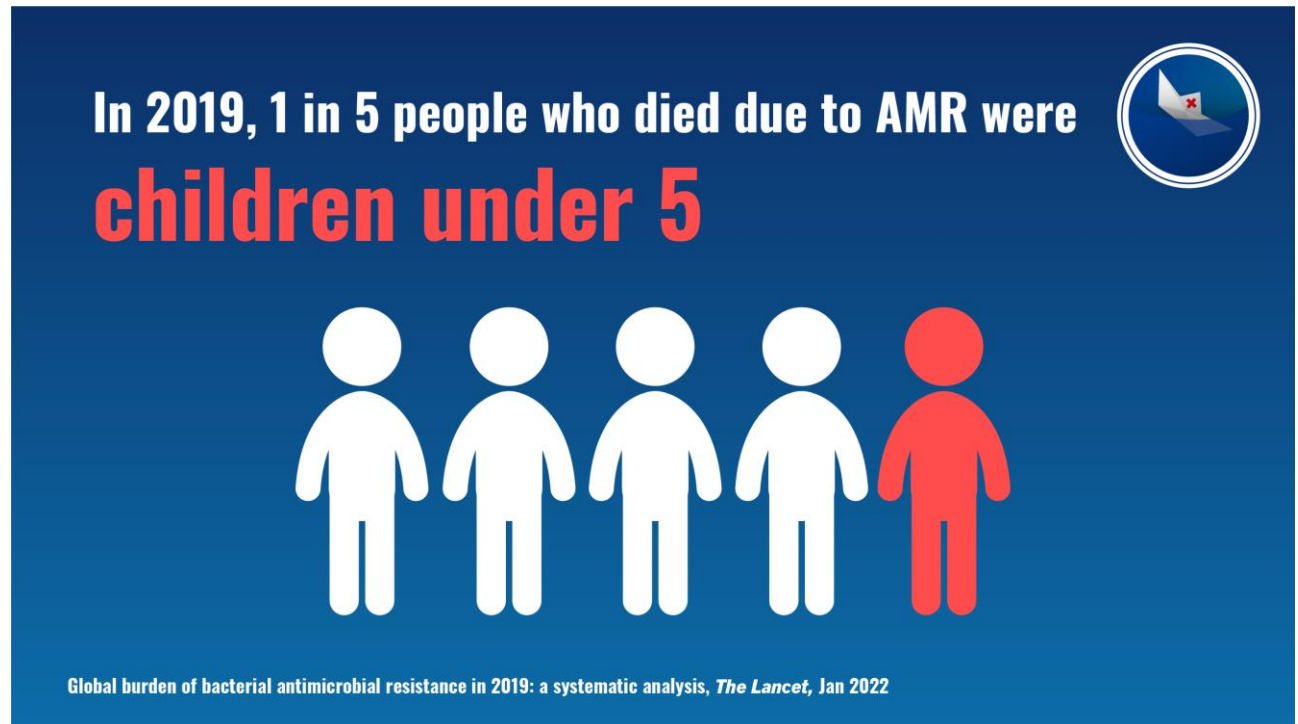
Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board would like to invite your school to participate in a competition to raise awareness of drug-resistant infections and how to take action to use antibiotics responsibly and prevent the spread of infections.



Can you join #AndiBiotic on his antimicrobial resistance (AMR) mission to #KeepAntibioticsWorking? The [Antibiotic Guardian](#) campaign asks you to make a pledge to [#keepantibioticsworking](#).



In 2019, 1.27 million deaths were attributed to AMR or drug-resistant infections. This figure is predicted to reach more than 39 million by 2050 if we don't act now!



### **Who can take part in the competition?**

Anyone between the age of 5-18 years of age.

### **Categories**

**School years 1-4:** Design a poster using [AndiBiotic](#) as your character.

**School years 5-13:** Create a “Horrible Histories” story to explain how drug-resistant infections can occur, how they might spread and what can happen as a result.

NB two age categories for prizes - junior category (Years 5-8) and senior category (Years 9-13)

The aim of this competition is to explain how drug-resistant infections can occur, how they might spread and what can happen as a result. Posters / stories should deliver messages to use antibiotics responsibly and #keepantibioticsworking.

### How do I send in my entry?

- Design your poster or create your Horrible Histories story
- Please send entries to Nilanka Sivapalan, Pharmacy Department, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Mandeville Road, HP21 8AL or email [bht.waaw@nhs.net](mailto:bht.waaw@nhs.net)
- Make sure your name, age and school are clearly written on your entry.
- **Deadline for submission for the competition is Friday 24th October 2025.**
- If your child wins or is a runner up in the competition we would like to share their entry along their photo and their name on our communications channels. A consent form (to download) and further information is available from [Schools art competition](#)

### Why participate?

- Each winning participant will have their poster displayed in hospitals / waiting areas and may be used for future campaigns. The Horrible Histories story will be used in the coming year to raise awareness within our communities of this issue.
- There will be winners selected for each category (£25 Amazon voucher):
  - **Best Poster Years 1-2**
  - **Best Poster Years 3-4**
  - **Best Horrible History story Years 5-8**
  - **Best Horrible History story Years 9-13**

### What should be included?

The entry of the poster can be designed using whatever media the child wishes.

It should incorporate some or all the key messages:

- Don't take antibiotics for colds and flu
- Don't save antibiotics for later – never share or use leftover antibiotics
- Take antibiotics as directed by your healthcare professional.
- Take up vaccinations for yourselves and your pets to prevent infection
- Get regular dental check-ups and brush your teeth regularly to prevent infections
- Never demand antibiotics if your health professional says you don't need them.
- Not sharing antibiotics with animals

#### Hints and tips:

- Keep it simple.
- Make it eye catching.
- Make sure that the messages are clear and concise.

Looking for inspiration? [See last year's winners and their entries here](#)

#### What information is there to help?

- Tools for schools powerpoint – see page 4-5 for primary schools and page 4 and 6 for secondary schools
- [e-Bug](#) educational resource which also has lesson plans is a free resource.
- Various activities can be found [here](#)
- Join [#AndiBiotic](#) on his antimicrobial resistance (AMR) mission to [#KeepAntibioticsWorking](#)
- [Antimicrobial resistance - Stay Well](#)
- The [World Health Organisation](#) has extensive information on Antimicrobial Resistance.
- [Keep Antibiotics Working | Campaigns | Campaign Resource Centre](#)
- Shionogi BV: [The Next Generation Responds to the Superbug Crisis video](#)



#### Why does this matter for schools?

This is a fantastic opportunity to communicate simple, but important messages to children, their families and their communities. **Bugs know no boundaries!** Please take part and contribute to the success of the campaign!

During World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024) please encourage everyone to share the message by becoming Antibiotic Guardians. Thank you in advance for your support.

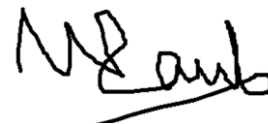
Kind regards,



Claire Brandish,  
Lead Antimicrobial  
Pharmacist,  
Buckinghamshire  
Healthcare NHS Trust



Lydia Rylance-Knight  
Head of Infection Prevention  
& Control and Vaccinations  
Buckinghamshire,  
Oxfordshire and Berkshire  
West Integrated Care Board



Dr Meenu Paul  
GP in Primary Care, Clinical  
Lead in Medicines  
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Laurie Powell  
Primary Care Dentist  
Oxfordshire LDC  
Primary Care Rep for  
BOB ICP



Imogen Schofield  
Veterinarian  
Director of Clinical Research



Rachael Corser  
Chief Nursing Officer  
Buckinghamshire,  
Oxfordshire and Berkshire  
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Sai Jammigumpula  
Lead Pharmacist – 999  
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South Central Ambulance  
Service

