4th April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Confirmed cases of Chickenpox**

Please be aware that there have been several confirmed cases of chickenpox in school. Below is some information from the Health Protection Agency:

Chickenpox usually begins with a raised temperature, a feeling of being generally unwell and a blister type rash which spreads all over the body, but usually starts on the back, chest and abdomen. It is a self-limiting infection for most children but can be extremely serious for children who are immune-suppressed.

* Chickenpox is infectious during its early stages, from 1-2 days before until 5 days after the first spots appear and until the spots have crusted and dried.
* It is spread very efficiently from person to person by virus shed from the nose or throat droplets or by direct contact. The fluid inside the chickenpox spot is also infectious.
* The incubation period of chickenpox is from 14 to 21 days after contact with the infected person.
* Once a person has had chickenpox they are normally immune to catching it again.
* There is a vaccination against chickenpox but it is not currently part of the childhood vaccination programme.
* It is available for families with an immunocompromised child and for health care workers.
* Cases of chickenpox should be excluded until their rash has crusted and dried, usually about 5 days after the onset of the rash.

Certain groups of people are at risk if they are exposed to the chickenpox virus by social, classroom type contact with a case of chickenpox:

* Pregnant women especially in the first and third trimester who have not had chickenpox. If a pregnant woman who thinks she has not already had chickenpox has contact with a case she should consult her doctor or midwife as soon as possible.
* People with an impaired immune system, such as those with acute or chronic leukaemia or HIV and patients taking medicines to suppress their immune system, such as long-term oral corticosteroids. Parents of children who are vulnerable to chickenpox because of their illness or medication should be advised if there are cases of chickenpox in the school so they can make informed decisions about exclusion.

I hope this gives you the information you need, but if you have any concerns for either your child(ren) or yourself, please contact your Doctor.



**Jeremy Edwards**

**Deputy Headteacher**