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'One school, learning together'

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Dear Parent / Carer

OUTBREAK OF CHICKENPOX

I thought that you would want to know that we have a number of children in school who are off sick with chickenpox. Below is some information that has been given to us by a local GP.

Chickenpox is a common and infectious disease which is caused by a virus and is spread by sneezing and coughing or direct contact with broken chickenpox blisters.

Symptoms are:

- **Fever, aches and headache** which often start a day or so before a rash appears
- **Rash** – spots appear in crops and develop into small blisters and are itchy. They can develop over several days.
- **Dry cough and sore throat** are common

Chickenpox is highly infectious. It can take between 7 – 21 days (most commonly 10 – 14 days) to develop symptoms after catching the virus (the incubation period).

To avoid chickenpox spreading we ask that you keep your child at home until all the spots have crusted over (commonly about 5 days after the onset of the rash).

I hope the above information is of help to you.

Yours sincerely

Richard Culham
Head Teacher

