



St Anne's Catholic Primary School
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Loving & learning together in Harmony with Christ



Dear Parents/carers,

We are writing to inform you that there has been a confirmed case of chicken pox at St Anne's Catholic Primary, therefore we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the procedure for when to keep your child at home and when it is appropriate to send them back to school, should your child develop the symptoms of chicken pox.

Chicken pox is a mild and common childhood illness caused by a virus called varicella zoster. It is most common in children under the age of 10 and is contagious. The incubation period is approximately 21 days and the person is contagious from 1 to 2 days before the spots appear until the spots have crusted over (usually 5-6 days after the spots appear).

Groups of people that are most at risk of serious problems if they catch chicken pox are new-born babies, pregnant women and those with a weakened immune system; therefore it is important, if your child has chicken pox, to keep them at home while they are contagious. Most adults are immune to chickenpox as they have had the illness in childhood. If you have not had chickenpox illness in the past and have had recent contact with chickenpox and are pregnant you should contact your GP, who may wish to do a blood test to check if you are immune.

Our school policy states that if a child is suspected of having chicken pox, parents will be contacted immediately and asked to collect their child from school. All children should remain at home until **all** chicken pox spots have crusted over to avoid further spread of the illness.

We appreciate your understanding on this and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us.

Kind Regards

Mrs Prescott