

‘Living, Loving, Learning’

St Elizabeth’s Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parent / Guardian

Re: Chicken Pox

We have been informed that several children who attend St Elizabeth’s have been diagnosed with Chicken Pox. We have sought advice from UK Health Security Agency North West Health Protection Team. They have advised that although chicken pox is usually a mild and self-limiting illness more serious complications can develop.

Potential complications: Children who have had chickenpox recently are more likely to develop a serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever and so parents/guardians should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high fever, cellulitis (skin infection) and arthritis (joint pain and swelling). If you are concerned for any reason, please seek medical assistance immediately. If you suspect your child may have chicken pox, national guidance is that your child must be excluded from school until all the lesions have crusted over.

There is no specific treatment for chicken pox but if you have any concerns, we would advise you to discuss them with your GP. Chicken pox is spread by respiratory droplets or by direct contact with fluid from blisters. It has a sudden onset with fever, runny nose, cough and a generalised rash. The rash starts with blisters which then scab over. Several ‘crops’ of blisters occur so that at any one time there will be scabs in various stages of development.

If you/your child has an underlying condition which affects the immune system, you should contact your GP or hospital doctor to discuss whether any additional measures are needed. Infection control advice: The Health Protection Team have advised us on hygiene measures to help prevent spread within our school. Parents/Guardians can help by reminding children the importance of coughing/sneezing into a tissue and putting it in the bin and regular handwashing with soap and water.

Please refer to Chickenpox - NHS (www.nhs.uk) for further information. If you have any further questions, please contact your G.P.

Yours sincerely

Mr L Daniels
Head Teacher

