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Old Basford School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Health Advisory Letter – Chicken Pox

I would like to make you aware that we currently have a few cases of Chicken Pox within school. Chicken pox is a common childhood illness, and one that most of us have had at one time or another. The most commonly recognised chicken pox symptom is a spotty, blistering red rash that can cover the entire body. The spots normally appear in clusters behind the ears, on the face, over the scalp, on the chest and belly and on the arms and legs.

Chicken pox is contagious until all the spots have scabbed over, which usually happens about five or six days after the rash has appeared. And guidance from Public Health England states that: *‘Cases of chickenpox are generally infectious from 2 days before the rash appears to 5 days after the onset of rash. Although the usual exclusion period is 5 days, all lesions should be crusted over before children return to nursery or school.’*

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you, should your child develop the symptoms of chicken pox of the procedure for when to keep you child at home and when it is appropriate for them to return to school.

Our school procedure 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 (usually 5-6 days after the spots appear). Should any children return to school before all the spots have crusted over, parents will be contacted and asked to collect and take them back home.

If you suspect your child has chicken pox, we ask that you seek advice from your G.P. surgery and then to telephone the school office to let us know. It is also a good idea for anyone who has chicken pox to avoid contact with pregnant women, new-born babies and anyone who has a weak immune system.

If you have any questions, please contact the school office and I thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Duffin
Head teacher

