

8 April 2019

Dear Parents

I am writing to you to inform you there has been a reported case of chicken pox in a PP/Year 1 classroom. Please see the information below regarding treatment for this infection. Please note that children need to be excluded from school for a set period of time, please see below for details.

Regards

Graeme Watson  
Principal

Communicable disease guidelines 2016 Edition

<b>Chickenpox (Varicella)</b>	
<b>Notifiable – discuss with your local public health unit.</b> A common, acute, viral infection. Symptoms include fever, fatigue, and a generalised rash characterised by small vesicles (blisters) that rupture to form crusts.	
<b>Transmission</b>	Airborne or droplet; direct or indirect contact with fluid from vesicles of an infected person
<b>Incubation period</b>	Average 10–21 days
<b>Infectious period</b>	From 2 days before rash appears to 5 days after, when vesicles have formed crusts. See Appendix 1 for immunisation recommendations
<b>Exclusion</b>	Exclude for at least 5 days after vesicles (rash) appear and until vesicles have formed crusts. Note that crusts alone do not warrant exclusion
<b>Treatment</b>	Antiviral treatment available
<b>Contacts</b>	Refer any immunosuppressed children (e.g. leukaemia patients) to their doctor. Do not exclude other contacts
<b>Immunisation</b>	Non-immune pregnant women should see their doctor urgently as immunisation may prevent chickenpox in contacts within 5 days of exposure. Post exposure immunisation can also be offered to other non-immune contacts to prevent disease