



Totley Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers

As a child in FS2 Ahlberg has contracted Chicken pox I thought it appropriate to give you the advice taken from the South Yorkshire Health Protection Unit, "The Management and Control of Infectious Diseases":

“What is it?”

Chicken pox is a mild illness caused by a virus. It is much more severe in adults than in children, and can be a particular problem in pregnancy.

What are the symptoms?

Chicken pox is like a mild case of flu with a rash. The rash is the most noticeable feature and starts out as crops of raised red spots. These develop into small blisters which eventually scab over in 3-4 days. Chicken pox is mainly a disease of children and is usually, but not always, a mild illness.

How is it spread?

Chicken pox is highly infectious and is usually spread from person to person by coughs and sneezes. The incubation period is two to three weeks. Children with chicken pox can pass it to others from 1-2 days before the rash appears until 5 days after the rash has started. A child who has had chicken pox will be immune for life.

How can it be prevented?

Chicken pox is highly infectious and it is very difficult to prevent it spreading from person to person. There is no vaccine available for chicken pox.

Should children stay away from school?

Children with chicken pox should stay away from school for five days from the first appearance of the rash. Please make sure that the class teacher knows that your child has chicken pox, in case other children, parents or teachers need to avoid infection for medical reasons.

If your child has a condition or is having treatment causing suppression of their immune system, you should see your doctor immediately and tell him/her that your child may have been in contact with chicken pox.

If you are pregnant, and you have been in contact with a case of chicken pox, you should tell your doctor about it as soon as possible if you have never had chicken pox yourself”.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Paxman
Headteacher

