



9<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Dear Parents

Following a number of cases of impetigo over the past week, our School Doctor, Dr Carroll, has sent the following information from the NHS choices website, which also confirms the advice given in our school handbook.

### **What is Impetigo**

Impetigo is a highly contagious bacterial skin infection causing blisters and sores. Impetigo mainly affects children, often on the face, especially around the nose and mouth, and sometimes on the arms or legs.

### **Preventing the spread of impetigo**

During treatment, it is important to take precautions to minimise the risk of impetigo spreading to other people or to other areas of the body.

Most people are no longer contagious after 48 hours of treatment or once their sores have dried and healed. It's important to stay away from work, school, nursery or playgroup until this point.

The advice below can also help to prevent the spread of the infection:

- don't share flannels, sheets or towels with anyone who has impetigo – wash them at a high temperature after use.
- wash the sores with soap and water and cover them loosely with a gauze bandage or clothing.
- avoid touching or scratching the sores, or letting others touch them – it may help to ensure your nails are kept clean and short.
- avoid contact with new-born babies, preparing food, playing contact sports, or going to the gym – until the risk of infection has passed.
- wash your hands frequently – particularly after touching infected skin.
- washable toys should also be washed – wipe non-washable soft toys thoroughly with a cloth that has been wrung out in detergent and warm water and allowed to dry completely.

If you think that the infection has spread to someone else, make sure they're seen by a GP as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Melanie Harries