

St. Joseph's

Catholic
Primary School



15th May 2025

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Re: Chickenpox

We have been informed of seven children at school who have chickenpox. I realise that you may be concerned about this, and so we are writing to provide further information. Chickenpox is usually a mild childhood illness but there is a risk of complications in people who have a weakened immune system, including young babies and pregnant women.

We have sought advice from the local Public Health England Health Protection Team.

Symptoms of Chickenpox:

The first **symptoms** of chickenpox is the onset of a slight fever, feeling generally unwell for a couple of days before the spots appear.

The spots can appear everywhere, they usually begin on the scalp/face and back, but they can be seen inside the mouth. The spots look flat and red; these later become raised and filled with fluid. Most children become free from chickenpox in less than two weeks.

If you think your child has the early symptoms of chickenpox it is important to keep them at home as chickenpox is still infectious to other children during this period.

If your child develops chickenpox then they must remain away from school until the appearance of the chickenpox rash (blisters) and all the lesions have crusted over. This usually takes around five days but it may be a longer period.

You should seek advice from your GP or NHS 111 if:

- you are an adult and have chickenpox
- you're pregnant and have not had chickenpox before and have been near someone with it
- you have a weakened immune system and have been near someone with chickenpox
- you think your newborn baby has chickenpox

This is because you may need medication to prevent complications.

Further information:

You can find more information at:

- NHS Choices <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/>

If you have any further questions, please contact the school at admin@stjosephs.cheshire.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely,

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