

19 January 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

We have a case of diagnosed Impetigo in Hargreaves class (First School). Impetigo is a common and highly contagious skin infection that causes sores and blisters.

Impetigo occurs when the skin becomes infected with bacteria. The bacteria can be spread easily through close contact with someone who has the infection, such as through direct physical contact, or by sharing towels or flannels.

As the condition doesn't cause any symptoms until four to 10 days after initial exposure to the bacteria, it's often easily spread to others unintentionally. Children and people with diabetes or a weakened immune system – either due to a condition such as HIV or a treatment such as chemotherapy – are most at risk of developing impetigo.

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 newborn 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.

More information can be found at : <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/impetigo/>