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"Barnabas, the Encourager"

3rd February 2017

Dear Parents

We have had a confirmed case of an illness called Slapped Cheek Syndrome in school recently along with several other children who have shown some of the symptoms, but not been confirmed as having this.

Information from the NHS website is below:

Slapped Cheek is a viral infection that's most common in children, although it can affect people of any age. It usually causes a bright red rash on the cheeks.

Although the rash can look alarming, slapped cheek syndrome is normally a mild infection that clears up by itself in one to three weeks.

Symptoms of slapped cheek syndrome usually develop 4-14 days after becoming infected, but sometimes may not appear for up to 21 days.

Initial symptoms

Some people with slapped cheek syndrome won't notice any early symptoms, but most people will have the following symptoms for a few days:

- *a slightly high temperature (fever) of around 38C (100.4F)*
- *a runny nose*
- *a sore throat*
- *a headache*
- *an upset stomach*
- *feeling generally unwell*

The infection is most contagious during this initial period.

In order to prevent the spread of illness, please keep your child off school if they show any of these symptoms until they feel better and seek medical advice if needed. Please also let us know if your child has these symptoms or has been confirmed as having slapped cheek syndrome by a GP.

This virus can be more serious for some people e.g. if pregnant, have a blood disorder or a weakened immune system so the NHS recommends seeking medical advice if people in these groups come into contact with children with slapped cheek syndrome. You can find out more information below.

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/slapped-cheek-syndrome/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely

Miss K Boardman
Headteacher