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Dear Parents/Carers,

Chicken Pox

I am writing to inform you that there has been a confirmed case of chicken pox at Princess May Primary School. Therefore, should your child develop the symptoms of chicken pox, we would like to remind all parents/carers of the school's procedures for when to keep your child at home and when to send them back to school.

What is Chickenpox (shingles)

Chicken pox is a mild and common childhood illness caused by a virus called varicella zoster. It is most common in children under the age of 10 and is contagious. It causes a rash of red, itchy spots that turn into fluid-filled blisters. They then crust over to form scabs, which eventually drop off. Some children have only a few spots, but other children can have spots that cover their entire body. Chickenpox is contagious from 1 to 2 days before the spots appear until the spots have crusted over (usually 5-6 days after the spots appear).

Who is at risk

People that are most at risk if they catch chicken pox are newborn babies, pregnant women and those with a weakened immune system. Therefore, it is important, if your child has chicken pox, to keep them at home while they are contagious.

How long to keep your child at home

We follow the advice of Public Health England;

- If your child is suspected of having chicken pox, parents/carers will be contacted immediately and asked to collect their child from school.
- All children must remain at home until all the blisters have crusted over (usually 5 to 6 days after the start of the rash).
- Should any child return to school before this time, parents/carers will be contacted and asked to collect them immediately and take them back home.

We appreciate your understanding and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Reynolds
Headteacher