Monday 23 March 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

We wish to notify you that there has been a case of a child who had impetigo. Impetigo is an infection of the skin and is often called 'school sores'. Impetigo is very easily spread, but with care spread can be reduced. A doctor’s certificate is required before the child/ren is able to come back to school.

**What is Impetigo?**
- Impetigo is an infection of the skin caused by bacteria (usually by one of two bacteria called either staphylococcus aureus or group A, b haemolytic streptococcus). These bacteria can live on the skin, in the throat or nose, or on other parts of the body without causing a problem but sometimes they start to cause an infection such as impetigo.
- Impetigo can occur on healthy skin but it often happens when the skin has already been damaged by a scratch, bite or a disease affecting the skin such as eczema or chicken pox.
- Impetigo is very easily spread.

**Signs and symptoms**
- The sores can be anywhere on the body, but are often on the face near the mouth and nose, or on the arms and legs.
- Impetigo may start with a blister or a group of blisters.
- The blister bursts leaving a patch of red, wet skin which weeps.
- The spot usually becomes coated with a tan or yellowish crust, making it look like it has been covered with honey.
- There can be small spots around the first spots, spreading outwards.
- Impetigo is usually itchy.
- The sore takes about one to three days to develop after contact with fluid or crusts from a sore.
- There is often superficial peeling on the edge.

**Treatment**
- A child with impetigo needs to be checked by a doctor to be sure that it is impetigo; and because sometimes an antibiotic medicine is prescribed.

Please contact the school for further information on 46282455.

Androula Kavallaris
Principal