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Scabies – Advice

Dear Parent/Carer

As I'm sure you are aware from time to time children catch infections. Recently we have experienced a small number of cases of children being infected by the scabies mite.

Scabies is a surprisingly common intensely itchy skin infection. Due to its association in the mind of the general public with poor hygiene it is one of those conditions, similar to head lice and other such infections, which we find difficult talking about.

Scabies is a very common problem, particularly in schools, where people spend a significant amount of time together. It is very difficult to be specific about the exact nature of a scabies rash as doctors find it very difficult to diagnose. The rash takes many forms, sometimes red lines or burrows are seen between the fingers or on other parts of the skin. If you think that your child may have been infected by scabies please seek medical advice.

Once the diagnosis has been made treatment is required. The medicines available to treat scabies are available from any local chemist and take the form of a liquid or a cream. As in the case of head lice, the medicines do not require a prescription.

When there is an outbreak of scabies in a family, it is important to treat the whole family at the same time, including those members who do not have symptoms because they may be infected but develop the symptoms later.

The Health Protection Agency advice is that **no time should be taken off school** because of scabies and absences will not be authorised.

Yours faithfully,

L. A. Noble
Deputy Head Teacher

Diana Boulton
Attendance Officer