

West Derby School

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Headteacher: Mrs S Graham



13 January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you that there has been a case of chicken pox in West Derby School. Therefore we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the procedure for when to keep your child at home and when it is appropriate to send them back to school, should your child develop the symptoms of chicken pox.

Chicken pox is a mild and common childhood illness caused by a virus called varicella zoster and is contagious. The incubation period is approximately between 7 and 21 days and the person 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).

Groups of people that are most at risk of serious problems 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.

If a child is suspected of having chicken pox, parents will be contacted immediately and asked to collect their child from school. All children should remain at home until all chicken pox spots have crusted over to avoid further spread of the illness. Should any child return to school before this time, parents will be contacted and asked to collect them and take them back home.

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

Yours faithfully

Mrs S Graham
Headteacher