

Salisbury Primary School

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Monday 24th June 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I have been informed by a parent that their child has recently been diagnosed with a medical condition called 'Slapped Cheek'. This usually represents itself by a red mark on the child's cheeks that literally looks as if they've been slapped. There are very little other symptoms with this virus and the child normally feels well and healthy.

Slapped cheek is a virus which has its contagious period before the rash appears on the child and they are not usually contagious once the rash appears. You need to take your child to the doctors should you be worried about your child showing these symptoms. If you're pregnant, have a blood disorder or a weakened immune system and have been exposed to the virus, you should get medical advice.

The main reason for me writing to you is that I have been informed by 'School's Guidance Public Health England' that this virus can be harmful to unborn babies. This is a quote from their document...

'Slapped cheek disease (fifth disease or parvovirus B19) can occasionally affect an unborn child. If exposed early in pregnancy (before 20 weeks), inform whoever is giving antenatal care as this must be investigated promptly.'

They also state that vulnerable children need to be careful too...

'Some medical conditions make children vulnerable to infections that would rarely be serious in most children, these include those being treated for leukemia or other cancers, on high doses of steroids and with conditions that seriously reduce immunity. These children are particularly vulnerable to chickenpox, measles and parvovirus B19 and, if exposed to either of these, the parent/carer should be informed promptly and further medical advice sought.'

Please contact your doctor if you are concerned or give me a ring at school if I can help further.

Kind regards,

Deborah Steen
Head teacher