

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to inform you that there has been a suspected case of chicken pox in Reception at Mulberry Wood Wharf. The child is isolated at home.

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. The incubation period is approximately 21 days and the person is contagious from 1 to 2 days before the spots appear. The person stops being contagious when 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.

Our policy states that 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 sincerely,



Sarah Jane Bellerby  
Executive Headteacher