



24<sup>th</sup> January, 2017

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We have been informed that a number of children who attend Lessness Heath Primary School who have been diagnosed with suspected chickenpox.

### **Chickenpox**

Chickenpox is a mild and common childhood illness that most children catch at some point. It causes a rash of red, itchy spots that turn into fluid-filled blisters. They then crust over to form scabs, which eventually drop off. To prevent spreading the infection, keep children off nursery or school until all the spots have crusted over.

For most children, chickenpox is a mild illness that gets better on its own. But some children can become more seriously ill and need to see a doctor. Contact your GP straight away if your child develops any abnormal symptoms, for example:

- if the blisters on their skin become infected
- if your child has a pain in their chest or has difficulty breathing

### **Complications**

Children who have had chickenpox recently are more likely to develop more serious infection if scarlet fever is also present and so parents should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high fever, cellulitis (skin infection) and arthritis. If you are concerned for any reason please seek medical assistance immediately.

If your child has an underlying condition which affects their immune system, you should contact your GP or hospital doctor to discuss whether any additional measures are needed.

You can find more information on chickenpox on **NHS choices**: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Passmore  
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