



**Executive Head Teacher:** Andrew Smith B.Ed (Hons), M.Sc, NPQH  
**Head of School:** Nichola Allerston BA (Hons) (QTS), NPQH

## **Market Rasen Church of England Primary School (VC)**

Mill Road, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, LN8 3BL

T: 01673 842395 F: 01673 843866 E: [enquiries@marketrasen.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@marketrasen.lincs.sch.uk)

[www.marketrasen.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.marketrasen.lincs.sch.uk)

**Learning Together for Life**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Parents,

We want to alert you to an increased number of cases of chickenpox and scarlet fever that we have seen in our schools in recent weeks. This reflects epidemiological patterns being seen across Lincolnshire and England.

Chickenpox is a highly infectious virus that most children catch during their pre-school or primary school years. A single exposure to chickenpox almost always confers lifelong immunity (although the virus that causes chickenpox can cause shingles later in life). In children it is almost always a mild illness characterised by an itchy, spotty rash and low-grade fever. Children with chickenpox should stay away from school until all the spots have formed a scab. This is usually 5 days after the spots appeared. There is rarely a need to consult your GP for cases in children. The virus can be more complex in adults so people with clinical vulnerabilities or pregnant women who believe that they have not had the virus or been vaccinated should take precautions or seek advice if they are at high risk of exposure. The recent increase in chickenpox cases being reported is almost certainly due to the fact that many young children were not exposed to the virus during the pandemic. More information about chickenpox is available at this website (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/>).

Scarlet fever is a contagious bacterial infection which usually presents with flu like symptoms and swollen glands, with a characteristic rash appearing 12 to 48 hours later that may spread across the body and face, feeling rough to the touch. There may also be a white coating on the tongue. Scarlet fever almost always responds rapidly to antibiotics and children usually recover quickly after that but should be kept away from school until at least 24 hours after the antibiotics have commenced. More information is available at this website (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>).

To prevent the spread of infections in our schools we continue to encourage our children to practice good hygiene by washing hands with warm water and soap, not sharing water bottles or utensils, and covering the nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing and your support in encouraging this in your children will be appreciated.

Please seek medical advice if you feel your child may have either of the two illnesses referred to in this letter. If you are not sure if your child is able to attend school please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Smith  
Executive Headteacher

**Our Key Values: Caring, Honesty, Commitment to Achieve, Fairness, Co-operation, Respect**



---

**Our Key Values: Caring, Honesty, Commitment to Achieve, Fairness, Co-operation, Respect**

