



# ST ANTHONY'S SCHOOL

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10 September 2015

Dear Parents

The school has been notified today that a student in your class has Varicella (Chickenpox). This letter is not to alarm you however to give you important information on this matter.

### What is Varicella?

Varicella, or "chickenpox", is a common childhood viral infection characterised by a generalised, itchy, rash of tiny blisters that typically starts on the trunk and face and spreads to the limbs.

### What are the symptoms?

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Generalised rash characterised by small blisters that rupture and form crusts

### If you have Varicella:

The infectious period is from 2 days before the rash appears and until the blisters have formed crusts. You must exclude for at least 5 days after vesicles (rash) appears and until vesicles have formed crusts. Crusts alone do not warrant exclusion.

The school advises that if your child/ren has symptoms of the above to exclude your child/ren from school and seek immediate medical consultation from your General Practitioner. Do not give aspirin to children with chickenpox under 12 years of age as it may cause Reye's Syndrome.

If you have any further questions or would like a detailed factsheet on Varicella you can log onto the Department of Health website on [www.public.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au), alternatively you can email the school nurse: [julie-anne.jones@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:julie-anne.jones@health.wa.gov.au).

Kind regards

Greg Green  
PRINCIPAL