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Slapped Cheek Syndrome

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you that we have some confirmed cases of slapped cheek syndrome within the school across multiple year groups. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the procedure for when to keep your child at home and when it is appropriate to send them back to school, should your child develop the symptoms.

Slapped cheek syndrome (also called fifth disease) is common in children and should get better on its own within three weeks. It's rarer in adults but can be more serious if you are pregnant or have a weakened immune system or blood disorder.

The first sign of slapped cheek syndrome is usually feeling unwell for a few days. Symptoms may include:

- A high temperature
- A runny nose and sore throat
- A headache

A red rash may appear on one or both cheeks. Adults do not usually get the rash on their face. A spotty rash may also appear on the chest, back, arms and legs. The rash can be raised and usually fades within one to three weeks. Once the rash has appeared and your child is well within themselves (no high temperature) they can attend school.

If we suspect a child has slapped cheek syndrome at school, parents/carers will be contacted and asked to collect them to seek confirmation from a pharmacist or GP. Further guidance can be found on the NHS website [here](#).

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Aaron Wanford
Headteacher