



ST ALOYSIUS

CATHOLIC COLLEGE

13 September 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians

RE: School Sores (Impetigo)

There has been an outbreak of School Sores (Impetigo) amongst students in your child's class at St Aloysius Catholic College. Your child may have contracted the condition. Please examine your child as school sores can appear anywhere on the body, but usually on the face, especially around the nose and mouth.

Description

The blistering skin condition impetigo is caused by bacteria entering broken skin, typically where there is a cut, an area of eczema or a cold sore. The condition is highly contagious and is spread by physical contact. It is more common in children.

Symptoms

The following symptoms usually develop over a period of 1 – 2 days:

- Initially, the skin reddens and tiny, fluid-filled blisters appear.
- The blisters burst soon after they are formed, releasing a yellow fluid.
- The skin underneath the burst blisters becomes red and weeping.
- The blisters dry out to form an itchy, yellow crust.
- The blistered patch often spreads. Left untreated, it may become quite large.

Infectious Period

The child must stay at home until treatment from a medical practitioner or pharmacist has commenced. Sores on exposed areas must be covered by a dressing.

The school must be advised that the child has impetigo, as it is highly contagious and can spread quickly throughout the school.

Treatment

Topical antibiotics may be prescribed. Soaking the crusts with warm salt water helps to remove them and relieve itching. With treatment, impetigo usually clears up in a few days. To avoid spreading the condition to others, hands should be washed often and towels and face washers should not be shared.

Yours sincerely

Mr Brendan Gill and Mr Joseph Sandric
Co-Principals