



Onslow Infant School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Please be aware that there are several cases of Impetigo in school at the moment. This is a skin infection that's very contagious but not usually serious. Anyone can get it, but it's more common in young children. With treatment, impetigo often gets better in a few days.

Symptoms of impetigo

Impetigo starts with red sores or blisters, but the redness may be harder to see on brown and black skin. The sores or blisters quickly burst and often leave crusty, golden-brown patches.

The patches can:

- look a bit like cornflakes stuck to your skin
- get bigger and spread to other parts of your body
- be itchy and are sometimes painful



The sores and blisters of impetigo commonly affect the face (around the nose and mouth) and hands.



After the blisters burst, you often have golden-brown crusty patches on your skin.



Sometimes yellow liquid oozes from the blisters and hardens to leave a scaly border around a scab. This is called bullous impetigo.

If you think your child may have impetigo, please take them to see a pharmacist who may prescribe antibiotics.

Impetigo stops being contagious 48 hours after you start using hydrogen peroxide cream or antibiotics prescribed by a pharmacist or GP. If you do not get treatment, it can take between 7 and 21 days for impetigo to stop being contagious – this is usually when all the patches heal, dry out and crust over.

There are some things you can do to help stop impetigo spreading or getting worse while it's still contagious.

- stay away from work, school or nursery until no longer contagious
- wash affected areas with soap and water and dry them thoroughly
- wash your hands frequently, particularly before and after using antibiotic cream
- wash flannels, towels, sheets and pillowcases at a high temperature
- wash toys with detergent and warm water if your children have impetigo
- do not touch or scratch sores, blisters or crusty patches – this also helps stop scarring