



3rd August 2009

Re - Swine Flu

Dear Parents/carers

C/o Community Rooms
Starcross Primary School
New Road
Starcross
EXETER
Devon
EX6 8QD
info@starcrosspreschool.co.uk
Tel: 01626 891439

I am writing to let you know that a child at the Pre-school is being treated with suspected swine flu. The pupil was taken home as soon as they became ill and are being treated at home and is expected to recover well.

We have taken advice from Devon Primary Care Trust and the Health Protection Agency, the pre-school therefore remained open and operating as usual. The information regarding this child only came to us on Friday 17th July (the last day of term). This is in line with updated national guidance, which also recommends that preventative antiviral drugs are no longer routinely offered to large groups of school pupils.

This approach has been adopted because as swine flu starts to circulate more freely in the local community, people may be exposed the virus outside school, or as soon as they have finished a course of drugs.

The most important advice we have been given is that children who have symptoms of flu-like illness should stay away from school until they have recovered and are free of symptoms. This is to avoid spreading the infection as much as possible. This action has been taken by the Pre-school. The child was collected by parents as soon as they became unwell. They did not returned to Pre-school last term. They were also given Tamiflu as a precaution. This case has not been confirmed, but logged with the health authority as a suspected case.

You can check any symptoms online at www.nhs.uk or call the Swine Flu Information Line on 0800 1 513 513. If you are still concerned, stay at home and call your GP, who may suggest a course of anti-viral drug treatment. This is designed to reduce the symptoms and help a quicker recovery.

If your doctor does advise anti-viral treatment for a child, please let the school know as soon as possible.

It's important to point out that the vast majority of people who have swine flu make a quick recovery at home. However, you should do what you can to prevent the infection from being spread to others by ensuring your family take some simple precautions:

- Covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue when possible.
- Disposing of dirty tissues promptly and carefully.
- Washing your hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of the virus from your hands to your face or to other people.
- Cleaning hard surfaces (such as door handles) frequently using a normal cleaning product.
- Making sure your children follow this advice.

If you have any further queries please contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Nicky Davey
Chair