11 May 2022

Dear Families

**Increase in Hepatitis Cases in Children and General Wellbeing**

I am writing to you following information received from our Local Authority, which included information regarding the increase in hepatitis (liver inflammation) cases in children in the UK. The UKHSA is continuing to investigate this sudden increase and are looking for probable causes, however they have linked this to the adenovirus infection, but other causes are still being actively investigated.

To ensure you are aware of the symptoms of Hepatitis please see the below:

* abdominal pain,
* loss of appetite,
* nausea,
* fever and fatigue,
* followed by jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes), dark urine and pale faeces.

While these are also symptoms of various viruses and diseases please ensure you consult your GP or contact 111 for further advice if you have any concerns about yours or your child’s health.

If your child has any illnesses or diseases i.e. chicken pox, which may require them to isolate for a period of time and you are unsure of the guidelines, you can get the latest advice [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-3-public-health-management-of-specific-infectious-diseases).

Many of the illnesses, viruses and diseases are contractible via respiratory secretions or by direct contact. While we will do everything we can in school to promote good hand hygiene and follow the Catch It, Bin It Kill It guidance we would also ask that these practices are carried out at home and in the community, in order to lessen the risk of such illnesses being brought into our school community.

Covid-19 is still a health concern and however, the rules of isolation have changed. You should still report your child’s positive Covid-19 cases to school as we are legally required to report any possible in school infections to the DfE. Pupils are required to isolate from school for 3 days following a positive test and can then return once they no longer have a high temperature (38◦C or above).

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs R Horan**

**Headteacher**