

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,  
I hope this message finds you well.

I am writing to inform you about a confirmed case of scabies within our school community. While scabies is a common skin condition caused by tiny mites, it can be uncomfortable and is important to address promptly to prevent further spread. We are aware there are multiple cases in Torbay at present.

#### What is Scabies?

Scabies is an infestation of the skin by the *Sarcoptes scabiei* mite. It is characterised by intense itching and a rash, which can occur anywhere on the body. Scabies is spread through close physical contact with an infected person or by sharing personal items such as clothing, bedding, or towels.

#### Symptoms to Look Out For:

- Intense Itching: This is often worse at night.
- Rash: Look for small red bumps or blisters, often in the folds of the skin (e.g., between fingers, underarms, waist, and buttocks).
- Sores: Scratching can lead to open sores, which may become infected.

#### How to Protect Yourself and Others:

1. Avoid Close Contact: Limit physical contact with anyone showing symptoms until they have been treated.
2. Do Not Share Personal Items: Avoid sharing clothing, towels, or bedding until they have been washed.
3. Wash Bedding and Clothing: Wash all clothing, bedding, and towels used by the infected person in hot water and dry them on a hot cycle.
4. Consult a Healthcare Provider: If you or your child develop symptoms, please consult your healthcare provider for evaluation and potential treatment.
5. Inform the School: If your child has been diagnosed with scabies, please inform the school so we can take necessary precautions to protect our community.

#### Treatment:

Scabies is treatable with prescription medications. If you suspect that you or your child has scabies, please seek medical advice promptly.

We understand that this news may cause concern, but please rest assured that we are taking all necessary steps to ensure the health and safety of our school community. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and encourage you to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

If you wish to seek further information about scabies: Further Information on Scabies: [Scabies - NHS](#)  
Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Yours sincerely,  
Brunel School