



**New Christ Church CE (Aided)
Primary School**

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Headteacher:
Maria Soulsby

Swine influenza

Dear Parent/Guardian

Today I have been notified of one confirmed case of swine flu of a child in our school. The pupil concerned is under the care of their GP and is receiving appropriate treatment.

Having taken advice from Reading Borough Council, the Health Protection Agency and the NHS the school will not be closing.

As you are probably aware the situation with Swine flu is rapidly changing and the UK as a whole is expecting a rapid increase in the number of cases. On a positive note the disease has tended to be mild in the large majority of people with most people recovering within a week.

The Department of Health has recently announced that it has moved to a treatment phase in the management of this disease. During this phase, the policy is that schools should not close because of individual cases of swine flu. There may be exceptions to this rule, particularly if there is a shortage of staff due to sickness to look after the children. Any closures will be notified to you in the normal school closures procedures.

Health advice is that children should continue to attend if they are well. As at all times, children with illness including fever should not be sent to school and should remain at home until they have recovered fully. We will continue to promote in school the hygiene measures below to reduce the spread of infection in schools and outside. It would be very helpful if you can also remind your child of these at this time.

Good basic hygiene reduces the spread of viruses, including swine flu. This includes:

- 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.

If you suspect that your child has flu-like symptoms, such as a combination of high fever (over 38° C) and two or more of the following symptoms: cough, runny nose, sore throat, nausea, limb/joint pain, headache, vomiting and diarrhoea, please keep them off school and follow the advice below:

- Read up on [swine flu symptoms](#) then use the [NHS Direct swine flu symptom checker](#) or call the Swine Flu information line 0800 1 513 513
- If you are then still concerned, stay at home and call your GP

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- If the GP makes a clinical diagnosis of swine flu by telephone, they will give you a voucher reference entitling you to anti-viral medication
- Give this number to a healthy friend or relative and ask them to pick up the antivirals for you from a designated local collection centre

Other information is available on

<http://www.nhs.uk/AlertsEmergencies/Pages/Pandemicflualert.aspx>. or visit the Health Protection Agency website at www.hpa.org.uk.

All other children in the family should come to school as normal unless they are also showing symptoms.

Please rest assured that we take your children's safety very seriously and have taken advice from Reading Borough Council, the Health Protection Agency and the NHS. All staff are vigilant in looking for symptoms of flu and we will be contacting families immediately if we are concerned about the well being of any child. Please help us by ensuring your contact details are up to date and that your mobile phones are kept switched on.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Maria Soulsby