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St Mary's Catholic Community

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Dear Parents

We have had reports recently of *Slapped Cheek* (Parvovirus B19), amongst some of our students. It commonly affects primary school children and is not dangerous to most people. However, pregnant women are strongly advised to see a doctor if they suspect they have been exposed to the *Slapped Cheek* virus.

Symptoms of *Slapped Cheek* are:

- Fever
- Tiredness
- Aching muscles
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Runny nose, coughing and sneezing
- A rash that looks like a slap; usually present on the face, can also appear elsewhere on the body

People with *Slapped Cheek* are highly contagious **before** the rash appears. Once the rash appears, students are no longer contagious and therefore permitted to attend school, (providing there is no fever and they feel generally well).

The only way to contain the spread of the virus is to keep your child at home if they present with any signs of fever, aching muscles, sore throat, runny nose etc.

Please contact Mrs Glennie if you have any further concerns or questions. Additional reading can be found at:

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/disease-information-advice/erythema-infectiosum-slapped-cheek>

Sincerely,

Mrs Angela Glennie