Wednesday, 13 April 2011

Dear Parents,

CHICKENPOX

We have had a student in Year 5 diagnosed with Chickenpox. Queensland Health advises that:

"Chickenpox usually begins with a slight fever, headache, runny nose and cough. A day or two later a rash begins, starting as small pink blotches but rapidly progressing to blisters which usually last three to four days before drying out and turning into scabs.

The chickenpox virus is spread through coughs and sneezes and through direct contact with the fluid in the blisters of the rash. The dry scabs are not infectious.

The usual time between contact with the virus and the development of the illness is about 14-16 days, although sometimes it can take longer.

An individual with chickenpox is infectious to about one to two days before the onset of the rash and until the blisters have all scabbed, usually four to five days."

Your son should be excluded from school for at least 5 days after the rash first appears or until dry scabs have replaced all blisters. Good hygiene practices, such as washing hands after blowing or wiping nose, after coughing and before preparing food or eating should be maintained.

Yours sincerely

Dr Roderick Crouch
Principal