



Pinfold Street Primary School

February 2017

Dear parent/guardian

This letter is to advise you that we are aware of a number of children in Year 4 being affected with diarrhoea and sickness. Public Health England (PHE) in the West Midlands is in the process of investigating the cause and possible source of infection, and we will inform you once the results are available. We understand that the class in question had all attended a swimming lesson at a local leisure centre, so any possible links with this will also be investigated.

Viral gastro-enteritis is an intestinal infection caused by a number of different viruses. They occur in the community at this time of the year and outbreaks in schools and nurseries are particularly common. Please find attached general information on the management of diarrhoea and vomiting for your guidance:

The **symptoms** comprise of diarrhoea and vomiting that usually lasts 1 to 2 days. If your child is unwell with diarrhoea and sickness, please ensure they get they get lots of rest and drink plenty of fluids, taking sips rather than gulps to avoid vomiting. Please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school and until they have been free of symptoms for **48 hours**. Please contact Environmental Health on **01922 653 013** if you think your child has an illness related to this episode.

Good hand hygiene is the one of the most important ways to prevent the spread of these infections. This applies to the child who is ill and the person looking after them. It is advisable to keep your child away from other children and people who are particularly vulnerable, e.g. elderly people and those with chronic illnesses.

Please ring NHS 111, contact the GP or take your child to hospital if your child is unusually sleepy, won't take fluids or has other symptoms, such as blood in their diarrhoea, an unusual rash, headache, neck stiffness or difficulty breathing.

Yours faithfully

Mrs S-A Sinclair
Headteacher