10th November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have been made aware that there are cases of ringworm in the Johnstone community, and I am writing to bring this information to your attention.

**What is ringworm?**

Ringworm is a common fungal infection. Despite its name, it has nothing to do with worms. The name comes from the characteristic red ring that can appear on an infected person's skin. This fungal infection can affect the skin on the body, scalp, feet, groin area, and under the nails. When it is on the feet, it is called “Athlete’s Foot”.

**What are the symptoms of ringworm?**

Ringworm begins as a small round red spot on the skin that grows in size. The centre of the spot clears and then begins to have a ring shape. The edges of the ring are red and can be dry and scaly or wet and crusty.

When it is on the feet, the skin is scaly and cracked, particularly between the toes.

**How is ringworm spread?**

Ringworm is spread when a person has direct contact with the rash from an infected person or indirect contact with contaminated items such as hairbrushes or towels. Dogs and cats that have ringworm can easily spread the fungus to people.

**How is ringworm treated?**

Treatment for ringworm involves antifungal ointments that are available from the GP or your local community pharmacy.

**Please note there is no need to keep your child off school if they have ringworm, but it is important that it is treated.**

Should you require more information, please look on NHS inform at the following link, or contact your GP.

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/ringworm-and-other-fungal-infections/#preventing-ringworm-and-other-fungal-infections>

Thank you for your ongoing support of the school.

Yours Sincerely

Head Teacher

Michelle Ferguson