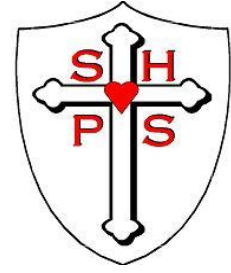




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SCABIES

What is it?

Scabies is caused by a small parasite which burrows into the skin.

How is it spread?

Scabies is spread from person to person by direct skin to skin contact. This includes holding hands. A person with scabies can spread the infection to others until he/she has been successfully treated.

What are the symptoms?

Scabies causes severe itching of the skin which is often worse at night-time. The itching may cause repeated scratching which may lead to visible scratch marks on the skin, which may become infected.

How can Scabies be prevented?

In order to prevent scabies from spreading, it is necessary to treat all those with Scabies and all those who may have had a lot of direct contact with their skin. As an extra measure to help prevent the spread of Scabies, clothes, bedding and towels that were used by those who were infected should be washed. All children with Scabies should stay away from school until the day after treatment has begun.

What should you do?

Contact your GP or telephone the NHS Helpline (111) if you think your child or any other member of the family has Scabies. All persons requiring treatment should have this carried out in the same 24 hour time period.