



Growing Together For Success

# ASHGROVE SCHOOL

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29<sup>th</sup> March 2019



Dear Parents/Caregivers

Attached is an information sheet regarding Scabies. Scabies have appeared in one of our classrooms of our Tipu hub.

As a precaution, we recommend you read the information on the reverse of this letter and check to see if your child has symptoms of this infectious condition.

Please note that once the treatment has begun you must wait 24 hours before returning your child back to school.

If you require more information you can obtain advice from the Health Line 0800 611 116 or the website; Health Ed helping New Zealanders stay well.

Christine Chadwick  
Principal



# Information Sheet

## Scabies

Scabies is a skin infection that is caused by tiny insects (mites) which burrow under your skin, causing a very itchy rash.

## Summary

The scabies rash looks like small blisters surrounded by red patches. Scabies mites are very tiny – the size of a pinhead – so they can be very hard to see. Scabies spreads easily between family members and friends. It is spread by skin contact, and by sharing clothing and bedding.

## Symptoms

If you have scabies, you'll have a very itchy rash that is worse at bedtime or when you're warm. The rash can develop on any parts of your body: between your fingers and toes, on your wrist, inside your elbows, around your waist, and on your bottom. Children often get a rash all over their body. Adults generally don't get a rash on their head or neck. If you think that you or a family member has scabies, talk to your pharmacist or doctor

## Treatment

It's important to treat scabies, as it won't go away otherwise. Your pharmacist can give you a cream or lotion to treat the scabies. Everyone living in the same house should be treated at the same time – even if they're not itchy. It can take up to four weeks for the itching to go away. If you still have the rash, you'll need to see your doctor

## Prevention

To stop scabies spreading: Everyone's clothes should be washed in hot water and dried – then put in a sealed plastic bag for four days. (Dry cleaning also works.) Everyone's bedding and linen – sheets, pillowcases, towels and facecloths – should be washed in hot water. It may be necessary to repeat the scabies treatment – talk to your pharmacist or doctor for advice