

1<sup>st</sup> April, 2024.

**In respect of all Staff and Pupils**

Dear parent/ carer/ staff member

**Re: Cryptosporidiosis: St Mary's Primary School, Maguiresbridge**

The PHA has been informed of a confirmed case of cryptosporidiosis infection in the school community and that some others have had similar symptoms. This infection is a common cause of tummy bugs (especially at this time of year) and can spread from one person to another. The most common symptom is of watery diarrhoea but it can also cause tummy pains, vomiting, high temperature, tiredness, loss of appetite, headache and muscle pain.

There is no specific treatment and most people get better within a few days. To avoid passing the infection on to other people, there are a few things to do.

If you think your child may have this infection, they should:

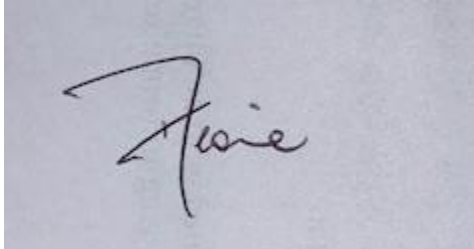
- Get tested. You should arrange to leave a stool (poo) sample with the GP to test for cryptosporidium and other bacterial tummy bugs and show this letter to the practice;
- Not mix with other children until they have not had any diarrhoea for 48 hours. This means that they stay off school, do not attend childcare or clubs, and do not play with other children;
- Avoid swimming for **two weeks** once symptoms have resolved.

You can catch cryptosporidiosis from:

- contact with farm animals or household pets;
- swimming in, or drinking, contaminated water;
- contact with someone else who has the illness or contact with their contaminated items (for example when changing a nappy);
- eating and drinking contaminated food or drink.

You can find out more in the information leaflet to follow.

Yours sincerely

A photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read 'David Cromie'.

Dr David Cromie

Consultant in Public Health (Health Protection), Public Health Agency (PHA)