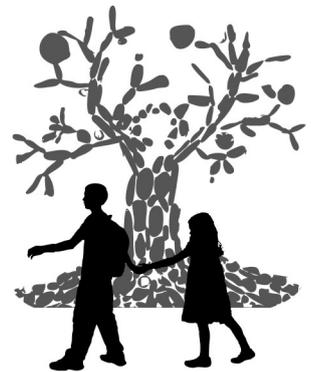


# Gorey Educate Together National School

*Scoil Náisiúnta Foghlaim le Chéile, Guaire*

19th February 2013      Tel: 053 94 89662      Twitter: @GoreyEducate  
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Two weeks ago: trip to Ireland vs. Poland soccer friendly. Many thanks to all the staff volunteers.  
 Last week: Chinese New Year - the Year of the Snake. We got to know some real snakes!  
 Yesterday: we travelled 45 at a time into outer space! Well almost - we learned about Orion & all the other constellations, as well as the sun and the planets inside the SkyDome mobile planetarium.

Please be mindful of the following, as a couple of cases were mentioned to us yesterday, (in 2nd and 3rd classes.)

### Slapped Cheek Syndrome (Fifth Disease - Parvovirus B19.)

General information from the H.S.E. [Health Protection Surveillance centre, www.hpsc.ie]

This viral infection usually occurs in outbreaks every few years and small outbreaks are common in schools/nurseries. It is a mild illness caused by a virus known as parvovirus B19.

A red rash appears on the face giving a 'slapped cheek' appearance and may also involve the legs and trunk. Often the child may have a runny nose and cough. Spread is mainly through infected secretions by coughing and sneezing. There is no specific treatment.

A few children, but most adults, have mild joint pains. Infection during pregnancy can be harmful to the developing baby.

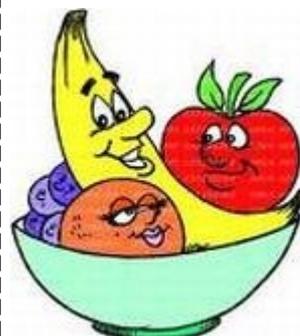
**Precautions:** Preventive measures include strict hand-washing following contact with secretions.

Pregnant women with sick children at home should wash hands frequently and avoid sharing eating/drinking utensils.

Pregnant women, those with specific blood diseases (e.g. sickle cell disease) and those with impaired immunity should seek medical advice if they believe they are in contact with a case.

**Exclusion [from school:]** An affected child need **not** be excluded because he/she is no longer infectious by the time the rash occurs.'

Coming next week (day to be confirmed) to Gorey Educate Together... the *Food Dudes* healthy eating programme, including 16 days of free Fruit and Vegetables!



Parents, please remind your child about his/her fruit or veg. allergies.

