



8th February 2016



URGENT ATTENTION

Dear Parents

We have been advised that a child from the school has Whooping Cough.

Sydney West Public Health Unit advises the following:

If your child has any of the symptoms of whooping cough, such as a **dry or persistent cough**, which may be especially bad at night, please **see your doctor** and take this notice with you. If the cough has been present less than 4 weeks a swab test can be performed. If longer than 4 weeks a blood test can be performed.

If your child has whooping cough, your doctor will arrange a course of antibiotic treatment. Antibiotics given early in the illness are effective in stopping the cough and in preventing spread to other people. If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough please **advise the school and keep your child at home** until they have taken at least 5 days of antibiotics.

Whooping cough is very dangerous for small infants – please ensure that you and your family do not visit babies if you have a cough.

Vaccination is the best protection against whooping cough. The vaccine is given at 2, 4 and 6 months and 4 years.

Information on whooping cough is available at [Http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/infectious/pertussis.html](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/infectious/pertussis.html) or from the Public Health Unit on 9840 3603 (Parramatta) or 4734 2022 (Penrith)

Sincerely

Mary Harb
Principal