

## **Victor Verruca's day out**

Victor Verruca was a bit of a pain. He was a growth that lived in the skin of a boy who never looked at his feet. The boy just showered, dried, put on his socks and shoes and never even looked at what was happening to his skin

Victor Verruca didn't like the shower because he got wet, but he could always leave some of his cells in the shower tray for other family members to stand on and in that way he could get to their feet too and spread. Infact, this was how he managed to get to live on the boy's sisters feet, as well as his Mum's and Dad's feet too. Nobody knew what was happening until one day, the boy was playing football and he felt a sharp pain in his heel. He couldn't see anything but he could feel a lump in his skin. He was a little frightened so didn't tell anybody about it.

Victor Verruca grew and grew and eventually he got to be a pain for the boy's sister who showed her foot to her Mum. Mum saw a hard patch of skin that looked a bit like a cauliflower, infact she had seen something like that on her own foot and the girl's fathers foot too. She thought it was a wart and went to see a Podiatrist.

Professor Pod posters in the waiting room explained that a wart was the same as a verruca and that they are very easy to pick up. The Podiatrist explained that the virus spread between family members or school friends in the showers or shared shoes. Nothing could be seen for a few months and then a cauliflower-like hard skin developed and this was the verruca. The whole family made an appointment to see the Podiatrist.

The Podiatrist looked at the girl's Mums feet, her Dad's feet and then the boy's feet. Immediately he knew where the verruca had started. The boy had a large patch of verrucae (that's more than one verruca) on his heel and on the ball of his foot. The boy was ashamed of himself because he wished he'd said something earlier and saved his family from Victor Verruca. By now Victor Verruca was very scared, because he had been spotted and was about to be treated.

The Podiatrist sprayed the skin, dried it and applied some special treatment get rid of the verruca on all the family's feet. "Aaaaghh" said Victor Verruca as the treatment worked. Over a period of weeks, the Podiatrist treated the whole family and got rid of Victor Verruca.

But nobody knows where he went.

Professor Pod says " be very careful if you share shoes with your friends. We must all be very careful if we use showers and baths that haven't been cleaned properly after the last person has used it".

Make sure Victor Verruca isn't lurking on your skin.