

7<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parents,

Unfortunately, there is concerning news emerging about cases of Strep A in schools around the country and we understand that many parents will be concerned. Up to date information can be found at the latest government press release [here](#).

Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by Streptococcus pyogenes, or group A streptococcus (GAS). The early symptoms of scarlet fever include:

- Sore throat, headache, fever, nausea, and vomiting
- After 12 to 48 hours the characteristic red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture.
- The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on darker skin, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present. Patients typically have flushed cheeks and pallor around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a 'strawberry tongue'. As the child improves peeling of the skin can occur.

Please be aware that in the majority of cases Strep A is a mild viral infection and can easily be treated with antibiotics. More information on the symptoms can be found [here](#).

So far, at our school we have had one confirmed case.

**If you suspect that your child may have a case of Strep A (scarlet fever), please keep them out of school and see a doctor, or call NHS 111, at the earliest possible opportunity. Contact our school office who can advise further on when children can return to school.**

*The government advice on when to take further action is copied below:*

*As a parent, if you feel that your child seems seriously unwell, you should trust your own judgement. Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:*

- *your child is getting worse*
- *your child is feeding or eating much less than normal*
- *your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other [signs of dehydration](#)*
- *your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38°C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39°C or higher*
- *your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty*
- *your child is very tired or irritable*

*Call 999 or go to A&E if:*

- *your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs*
- *there are pauses when your child breathes*
- *your child's [skin, tongue or lips are blue](#)*
- *your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake*

Good hand and respiratory hygiene are important for stopping the spread of germs. By teaching your child how to wash their hands properly with soap for 20 seconds, using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, and keeping away from others when feeling unwell, they will be able to reduce the risk of picking up or spreading infections.

I wanted to reassure you that we are, as always, taking sensible precautions in school but, as we go into the final days of the Autumn term, I wanted to remind you that maintaining excellent attendance is as important as ever. If your child is well, we would expect your child to be at school every day until the final day of term. We have a number of activities planned for the final week to celebrate our achievements, and we do not want any child to miss out on this week.

If you have any questions or concerns about sending your child to school, please do contact your child's [Head of Year](#) in the first instance.

Kind regards,

**Guy Rimmer**  
**Principal**

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