

13th December 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

Strep A Infections

We have been informed that a small number of children who attend our school have been diagnosed with confirmed Strep A infections which can include illnesses such as scarlet fever, sore throats and impetigo.

There is no need for you to be alarmed as these illnesses are common in childhood; there is usually an increase in cases over winter and with a more significant wave every three - four years. The last such wave was in 2017. Nevertheless, it is important that you are informed of what you should be looking out for, so you can seek appropriate medical intervention if needed.

Although scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, it should be treated with antibiotics to minimise the risk of complications and reduce the spread to others.

The symptoms of scarlet fever include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. This is followed by a fine red rash which typically first appears on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body. The face can be flushed red but pale around the mouth.

If you think you or your child has a Strep A infection (which includes scarlet fever, throat infections and impetigo):

- **See your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible**
- **Make sure that you/your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor**
- **Stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection**

Children who have had chickenpox recently are more likely to develop more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever and so parents should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high fever, cellulitis (skin infection) and arthritis (joint pain and swelling). If you are concerned for any reason, please seek medical assistance immediately.

If your child has an underlying condition which affects their immune system, you should contact your GP to discuss whether any additional measures are needed.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Whittaker

Headteacher

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