



6th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

You may be aware that there have been a number of cases of Strep A infections across the country.

I know this will be worrying to many of you. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has issued the following guidance, which can be read here: [UKHSA update on scarlet fever and invasive Group A strep - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-update-on-scarlet-fever-and-invasive-group-a-strep).

In the information from UKHSA, you will see that the main symptoms to look out for include:

- A sore throat
- Headache
- Fever
- Fine, pinkish or red body rash with a 'sandpapery' feel. On darker skin the rash can be more difficult to see but will still have a sandpapery feel.

If you think your child has these symptoms the advice from UKHSA is to call NHS 111 or your GP as early treatment with antibiotics is important and will help reduce the risk of any further illness.

If your child is confirmed as having a Strep A infection, please do keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to prevent the infection spreading to others.

The advice from the UKHSA makes clear that there are lots of viruses that cause sore throats, colds and coughs circulating. These should resolve without medical intervention. However, children can on occasion develop a bacterial infection on top of a virus and that can make them more unwell.

Good hand and respiratory hygiene are important for stopping the spread of many bugs. As we did during Covid, making sure that everyone washes their hands properly with soap for 20 seconds, uses a tissue/elbow to catch coughs and sneezes, and keeping away from others when feeling unwell, will help reduce the risk of picking up or spreading infections.

I hope this provides you with some useful information – if there is any further advice we will make sure to share this with you. If you have any questions please do get in touch through the school office in the usual way.

Kind regards,

Mr N Moss

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