

6th January 2023

Dear Parents,

Group A Strep, Scarlet Fever, flu and Covid – Information for parents

As you will be aware there have been reports in the press about increasing cases of illness amongst children, in particular those listed above.

I am writing to parents to provide an update on guidance from the UK Health and Security Agency.

The latest data from UKHSA continues to show that Group A Strep and scarlet fever infections are high. Invasive Group A Strep infections remain rare but are currently higher than is usual.

What should I do if my child has scarlet fever?

Symptoms of scarlet fever can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

Contact your GP. If your child is diagnosed with scarlet fever or suspected scarlet fever, they can return to school 24 hours after starting anti-biotics. Please let us know if your child has a diagnosis of scarlet fever.

What can we do to reduce infections?

As children return to school there are measures we can put in place to reduce any infections such as:

- Washing hands regularly
- Catching coughs and sneezes – catch it, kill it, bin it.
- Staying at home when feeling unwell with a fever.

The teachers will ensure that children wash their hands regularly and we will encourage children to use tissues. We will continue to clean surfaces thoroughly.

Parents should be aware that Group A Strep infections can be more serious when combined with another infection like flu or chicken pox. It is therefore important to try and reduce the spread of all infections. Please keep children at home if they have a fever.

What if my child tests positive for Covid-19?

If your child tests positive for Covid, please keep them at home for 3 full days after the day of the positive test. (If they test positive on a Monday – they can return on a Friday). This will reduce the chance of Covid spreading through a class. Children should only be returning to school if they are well enough.

How will we know if there is an outbreak at the school?

I will keep parents informed if there are any scarlet fever or Covid outbreaks at school. If you do not hear from me, please assume there have been no significant outbreaks.

Our vision is that of a caring Christian community where we light a spark of curiosity, build on individual talents and give everyone the courage to live life in all its fullness. John 10:10



It is important that children who are well continue to come to school every day and there is currently no reason for children to be off school unless they are unwell or have tested positive for Covid.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Woolley

Headteacher