



Dear Parents,

I am writing to update you on the National outbreak of Scarlet Fever (Group A Strep). Scarlet Fever is usually a mild illness, but it is highly infectious.

## What is Strep A?

Most strep A infections are mild - a sore throat or a skin infection which can be easily treated with antibiotics. But some people who catch it can get very sick. Some people develop scarlet fever, which causes a skin rash (which feels like sandpaper) and flu-like symptoms, including a high temperature.

We do have a number of confirmed cases of Strep A within school and as such have contacted Public Health to ask for advice. They have asked us to increase the cleaning and hygiene procedures within school which we have done. They have also asked us to contact parents highlighting the symptoms and ask parents to keep their child at home and contact 111 or your GP.

### Warning signs of a worsening disease include:

- **Fever (a high temperature above 38C)**
- **Severe muscle aches**

Public Health also advise that anyone with a high fever, severe muscle aches, pain in one area of the body and unexplained vomiting or diarrhoea should seek medical help immediately. Strep A can be easily treated with antibiotics and children can return to school 24 hours after beginning these.

The UK is experiencing an outbreak because for two years, and during the pandemic, children didn't mix and their systems are not immune to a number of different infections. We remain in constant contact with Public Health and will keep parents updated with any further advice or guidance.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Pointon

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