



06.02.24

Dear Parents,

I am writing to update because we have seen an increase in the numbers of children within school diagnosed with 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 have contacted Public Health for advice, and they have asked us to implement a number of procedures.

- 1) An increase in the cleaning and hygiene procedures within school which we have done. We have also arranged for a deep clean in classes most affected.
- 2) They have asked us to contact parents highlighting the symptoms below 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**
- 3) Ensure that all cuts, scrapes and wounds are cleaned and covered.
 - 4) Increase Hand Hygiene protocols across the school.
 - 5) We have completed a risk assessment regarding the upcoming school disco and have decided to postpone it until cases have reduced. Your ticket will be transferred to the next date but if you require a refund, please contact the school office.

Public Health also advise that anyone with a high fever, severe muscle aches, pain in one area of the body, 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.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Pointon

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