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'Enjoyment, Achievement and Learning for life...'

8th December 2022

Letter to Parents from Greg Fell (Director of Public Health Sheffield) Regarding Increased Incidents of Scarlet Fever.

Dear Parents/Carers,

You may have heard about 'Strep-A' in the national news recently, all schools have received a letter to forward to parents from Greg Fell at Public Health Sheffield. It is attached to this letter/Email or can be found by clicking [here](#)

Strep-A is caused by a bacteria known as 'Group A Streptococcus' (GAS). GAS is a relatively common bacteria that doesn't usually result in illness; however it can cause infections such as tonsillitis, impetigo and scarlet fever. If left untreated, these illnesses can be very serious, especially amongst children under 10. Children with pre-existing health conditions can be particularly vulnerable.

While infections like these can be unpleasant, they rarely become serious. When treated with antibiotics, an unwell person with a mild illness like tonsillitis stops being contagious around 24 hours after starting their medication.



What should parents look out for?

It's always concerning when a child is unwell. GAS infections cause various symptoms such as sore throat, fever, chills and muscle aches.

As a parent, if you feel that your child seems seriously unwell, you should trust your own judgement.

Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38°C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39°C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty

- your child is very tired or irritable

Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

How can we stop infections from spreading?

Good hand and respiratory hygiene are important for stopping the spread of many bugs. At school we have continued to sanitise hands when children return to the classroom. By continuing the messages from Covid-19 regarding good hygiene principles and teaching our children how to wash their hands properly with soap and warm water for 20 seconds, using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, and keeping away from others when feeling unwell, we will be able to reduce the risk of picking up, or spreading, infections.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions. GPs are always busy this time of year but they are aware of the increase in cases and possible severity. If your child is diagnosed with Strep-A, please let us know.

Thank you

Yours Faithfully,

Mr Wallis

Headteacher