7ᵗʰ December, 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

ref Strep A

As you are aware from media headlines, Strep A (Group A Streptococcus) has recorded a higher number of cases than usual this year.

Current advise is that it is important to be aware of the signs and symptoms and how to prevent the spread of infection for yourself and others.

As a parent if you feel that your child seems seriously unwell, you should trust your own judgement. **Contact NHS 111 or your GP practice** if:

- Your child is getting worse
- Your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- Your child has a dry nappy for 12 hours or shows other signs of dehydration
- Your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38 degree C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39 degrees C.
- Your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- Your child is very tired or irritable

Most group A strep infections are relatively mild illnesses such as sore throat, scarlet fever, or impetigo, they can present as sore throat, headache, fever, along with a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sand papery feel these infections may require antibiotics.

If children have these symptoms, please call NHS 111 or your GP surgery, children should be **kept at home at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment** to avoid spreading infection.

In school we will be taking extra precautions and reintroducing the use of hand sanitation where appropriate along side our current hand washing practices.

For more information visit:

Scarlet fever: www.nhs.uk (conditions>scarlet fever)

Impetigo: www.mhs.uk (conditions >impetigo)

The UKSA website: www.gov.uk (Group A Strep -what you need to know (blog.gov.uk))

Kind Regards

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