



UK Health
Security
Agency

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Date 8th December 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have been informed that a number of children who attend the school have been diagnosed with confirmed or suspected Group A Streptococcus (GAS) infection. This can cause a number of different illnesses:

Scarlet Fever - scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, however, should be treated with antibiotics to minimise the risk of complications and reduce the spread to others. The symptoms of scarlet fever include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. This is followed by a fine red rash which typically first appears on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body. On more darkly-pigmented skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, but it should feel like 'sandpaper'. The face can be flushed red but pale around the mouth.

Strep Throat - this is an infection in the throat and tonsils. It is spread by talking, coughing, or sneezing.

Impetigo - this is a skin infection. It will start with red sores or blisters. These will burst quickly and leave crusty, golden-brown patches.

If you think you, or your child, have a GAS infection:

- See your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible
- Make sure that you/your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor.
- Stay at home, away from nursery, school, or work for **at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment (48 hours for impetigo or until all lesions have crusted over/healed)**, to avoid spreading the infection.
- Reduce the spread by practising good hand and respiratory hygiene

Complications

Children who have **Flu** or **chickenpox** at the same time as a GAS infection are more likely to develop a serious infection (Invasive GAS), and parents should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high fever, cellulitis (skin infection) and arthritis (joint pain and swelling). If you are concerned for any reason please seek medical assistance immediately.

If your child has an underlying condition which affects their immune system, you should contact your GP or hospital doctor to discuss whether any additional measures are needed.

For more information, please visit [Scarlet fever - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

Yours sincerely

Mrs Katie Bladon
Deputy Headteacher & Inclusion Manager