



Tenterfields Primary Academy

A part of the Windsor Academy Trust

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Place of registration: England

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Dear Parents / Carers,

Re: 'Strep A'

With the drop in temperature outside, we will undoubtedly start to see a rise in winter bugs, most of which will only cause very mild symptoms. However, we are aware there has been extensive coverage in the media about an increasing number of Strep A cases amongst young people.

The health and wellbeing of our staff and students is of paramount importance to us and as such, we want to share with parents the latest government guidance on Strep A and what we are doing at Tenterfields to help prevent the spread of infection in school.

About 'Strep A':

Group A Streptococcal infections (GAS), commonly known as 'Strep A' (which can lead to scarlet fever and impetigo), is caused by Streptococcal bacteria.

Although this is usually a mild illness, Strep A should be treated with antibiotics to minimise the risk of complications and reduce the spread to others. The symptoms of Strep A and 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.

If your child is unwell:

If you think your child has Strep A or scarlet fever:

- See your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible
- Make sure that your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor
- Stay at home for **at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment**, to avoid spreading the infection



Children who have had chickenpox recently are more likely to develop a more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever and so 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.

Preventing the spread of infection in school:

We will be maintaining robust cleaning regimes in school as well as promoting regular handwashing, especially when arriving at school, using the toilet, before and after eating, after play and when leaving at the end of the day. Pupils will also be encouraged to cover their mouth when sneezing or coughing, preferably using a tissue, or where not possible the elbow to shield. We will also ask that all children wash their hands thoroughly after sneezing or coughing.

Further information:

You can find more information in the guidance [Scarlet fever: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment](#), and further advice can also be obtained from the West Midlands Health Protection Team on 0344 225 3560 during office hours.

It is important to stress that there are many cases of Strep A and scarlet fever every year and in the vast majority of instances, they either clear by themselves or after a course of antibiotics. However, given the current high number of cases, it is important that everyone is aware of the symptoms to look out for, seeking medical attention where you have concerns, and that we all try to take steps to reduce the spread of infection, and maintain good health.

Yours sincerely,



Miss L Buffery

Executive Headteacher