



PURBROOK INFANT SCHOOL
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Dear Parents/Carers

As you will be aware from the national and more recently, local news there has been a lot of cases of Group A Streptococcal infection in young children. Group A streptococcus is a bacteria that can cause a number of different illnesses including impetigo, scarlet fever, sore throats and skin infections. Very rarely it can cause more a serious illness of invasive Group A Streptococcus (iGAS).

I can confirm that we do currently have two clinically diagnosed cases in Wagtails' Class and one previous case from a separate class that cannot be linked back to the current cases.

In nurseries and schools, it is recognised that infections can be spread through direct physical contact between children and staff, and through shared contact with surfaces such as tabletops, taps, toys and handles. Therefore, we wanted to highlight the following hygiene and infection control measures:

- Children and adults with streptococcal throat infection (as confirmed by a clinician) or scarlet fever **should not return to nursery or school until at least 24 hours after starting treatment** with an appropriate antibiotic (after 48 hours if treated for impetigo)
- Hand hygiene – use liquid soap and water followed by method of drying, preferably paper towels
- Increase frequency and enhanced cleaning of key areas, especially bathrooms and all-touch surfaces.
- Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette (Catch It, Bin It, Kill It.)
- Children and staff should be reminded that all scrapes or wounds, especially bites, should be thoroughly cleaned and covered
- Sore throat: parents should follow [NHS advice](#) about when to contact their GP or NHS 111 if they are concerned; [NHS advice](#) is that children with sore throat **and fever** should not attend school until well.

Please be reassured that we are carefully monitoring our absence line and following up anyone who may have symptoms with advice to get them checked out if unsure. If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please see the links below for further guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities> (Chapter 9 for disease specific information) for the UKHSA guidance.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/> for more information about Scarlet Fever.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/338368/Scarlet_fever_Q_and_A_factsheet.pdf scarlet fever frequently asked questions document

Further Information is also available at NHS Choices <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/streptococcal-infections/pages/introduction.aspx> or <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/group-a-streptococcal-infections-guidance-anddata>

Yours sincerely

Mrs L A de Carteret
Headteacher