

 **Toot Hill School**
The Banks
Bingham
Nottinghamshire
NG13 8BL

 +44 (0) 1949 875550
 www.toothillschool.co.uk
 contact@toothillschool.co.uk
 @TootHillBingham
 toothillschool

Head Teacher
Chris Eardley *BSc (Hons), PGCE, PhD*

Executive Head Teacher
Sandy Paley *BSc (Hons), PGCE, MEd*



Thursday 8th December 2022

Scarlet Fever and Group Strep A Infections Information

Dear Parents and Carers

We have received a notification from the Department for Education regarding the recent news in the press about Scarlet Fever and Group Strep A Infections.

The current situation is being closely monitored by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

Whilst the UKHSA are reporting an increased number of cases of Group A streptococcus compared to normal at this time of year, there is no evidence that a new strain is circulating and the increase is most likely related to high amounts of circulating bacteria and social mixing.

What are Scarlet Fever and Strep A?

Scarlet Fever is caused by bacteria called Group A streptococci (Strep A). The bacteria usually cause a mild infection that can be easily treated with antibiotics. In very rare occasions, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A Strep (iGAS)

Strep A infections can cause a range of symptoms that parents should be aware of including:

- Sore Throat
- Headache
- Fever
- A fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel
- On darker skin the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel

If your child becomes unwell with these symptoms, please contact your GP practice or contact NHS 111 to seek advice.

If your child is diagnosed as having scarlet fever, they should stay at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

We could encourage all parents to trust your own judgement and if your child seems seriously unwell please 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 won't wake up or stay awake

If you require any further information please follow this link [NHS England » Group A Strep](#)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Eardley', written in a cursive style.

Dr C Eardley
Head Teacher