



# Moor Nook Community School

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Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to share with you the information we have just received from the Department for Education regarding cases of Scarlet Fever and Group Strep A infections.

*UKHSA (UK Health security Agency) is reporting an increased number of cases of group A streptococcus (Strep A) 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 easily be treated by antibiotics. In very rare occasions, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A strep (iGAS).*

**WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF STREP A/ SCARLET FEVER?**

*Strep A infections can cause a range of symptoms to 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 (which operates a 24/7 service) to seek advice. If your child has scarlet fever, they are advised to stay at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others. You are encouraged to trust your own judgement and if your child seems seriously unwell 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 will not wake up or stay awake

**HOW TO HELP PREVENT STREP A?**

*To prevent the spread of Strep A, UKHSA advises children and their families to practise good hand and respiratory hygiene.*

*For more information visit the UKHSA website.*

Thank you for your support with this.

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Clough  
Headteacher

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