



Wootton Bassett Infants' School

High Street
Royal Wootton Bassett
Wiltshire
SN4 7BS

Tel: 01793 852254

Email: admin@woottonbassett-inf.wilts.sch.uk

Wednesday 7th December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

With the increase in children becoming unwell and in light recent media coverage of Strep A and scarlet fever we would like to share some guidance and information with you. We do have a confirmed case of scarlet fever and Strep A in school which can cause a number of different illnesses (GAS infections), so please read the following carefully.

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. This may be accompanied by a 'strawberry tongue'. [Scarlet fever - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

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 are concerned your displays any of the above symptoms, please follow the advice below:

- Parents should seek medical advice by contacting NHS 111 or your GP.
- Children should remain off school for 24hrs after antibiotic treatment has started.
- If no antibiotics have been administered, the individual will be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks and should be excluded for this period.
- Only return to school after this period if their temperature has returned to normal and they are well enough.
- Encourage children to implement good [hand hygiene](#) and good [respiratory hygiene](#) practices (please note: cleaning procedures throughout school have been heightened).

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.

Other local illnesses

Children with a sore throat, temperature or feeling unwell: Respiratory infections are common in children and young people, particularly during the winter months. For most children and young people these illnesses will not be serious, and they soon recover. It is not possible to tell which germ someone is infected with based on symptoms alone.

- Children can attend school with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well.
- Children with a [high temperature](#) or if they are too unwell to carry out their normal activities should stay at home. They can attend when they no longer have a temperature and are well enough to attend the setting.

If you are still unsure if your child is well enough to attend school, please look at the following guidance from the NHS.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

[How long should you keep your child off school - checklist poster \(text version\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

Alison Pass

Headteacher