

Our Ref: CSN/PGE

December 2022



**ALL PARENTS/CARERS**

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware, from reports within the press and other media outlets, there is a rise in cases of Group A Strep (GAS) and Scarlet Fever, both nationally and locally.

Please see below advice and guidance regarding symptoms and next steps that have come directly to schools from the Department for Education.

**What are the symptoms of Strep A/Scarlet Fever?**

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 a 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 a child has scarlet fever, the advice is to stay at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

As parents/carers you know your child best so please trust your own judgement and if your child seems seriously unwell call 999 or go to A&E if:

- a child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs;
- there are pauses when a child breathes;
- a child's skin, tongue or lips are blue;
- a child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake.

**How to help prevent Strep A?**

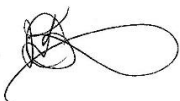
To prevent the spread of Strep A, UKHSA advises children, young people and staff to implement good [hand and respiratory hygiene](#) practices.

For more information visit the UKHSA [website](#).

We have also attached with this letter a poster from the UKHSA advising on absences with other illnesses.

As we receive further information from the Department from Education, Local Authority or UKHSA we will share this with you.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs Sutton**  
**Headteacher**

Mill Bank, Sedgley, Dudley, West Midlands, DY3 1SN

Tel: 01384 816 395 Fax: 01384 816 396 email: [info@dormston.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@dormston.dudley.sch.uk) [www.dormstonschool.co.uk](http://www.dormstonschool.co.uk) [@DormstonSch](https://twitter.com/DormstonSch)

Head Teacher: Steve Dixon