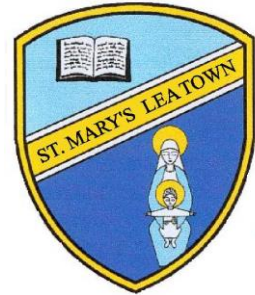


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'Happy are those who hear the word of  
God and keep it' Luke 11:28

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022

## Strep A and Scarlett Fever – Signs, Symptoms and what to do if you are concerned

Dear Parents/ Carers

I am sure that most of you will be aware that within the media it has been shared that there have been an increase in cases of Scarlet fever and Strep A. In some limited circumstances the cases have been severe which understandably has caused unease and worry amongst parents and carers.

I am also aware of various forums/ social media links and through conversations with friends, colleagues etc. of some cases within local schools - hence I write to provide some reassurance and information.

At St. Mary's Catholic Primary school we have had **NO** confirmed cases at present and we continue to follow rigorous hygiene measure within school. I have liaised with colleagues that have had formally diagnosed cases in regard to any additional recommended measures and we are confident we are already undertaking these and have such preventative measures in place -

washing hands regularly, encouraging pupils to cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze and use tissues. As ever we also are grateful of your support in keeping us informed and keeping pupils at home when they are unwell. We regularly carry out these rigorous hygiene measures – fogging, deep cleaning etc. as a school at all times.

Sign and symptoms are shared below. **The key advice is if you are worried or concerned seek advice from your GP/ 111 service**

*GAS infections cause various symptoms such as sore throat called Strep Throat, fever, chills and muscle aches. Usually these are mild illnesses, and your child should recover in a few days.*

*Signs that suggest your child might have Strep throat are:*

- *Fever within the last 24 hours*
- *White spots at the back of their throat (pus on their tonsils)*
- *Very large or red tonsils*
- *Sore (tender) lumps under their chin*
- *If they have become poorly quickly over the past couple of days*
- *No cough or runny nose*

Some links are shared below should you wish to seek additional advice

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/group-a-streptococcal-infections-guidance-and-data>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-update-on-scarlet-fever-and-invasive-group-a-strep>

In the meantime we continue to be vigilant to all signs and symptoms and will continue to work in partnership to ensure everyone remains as safe and healthy as possible. Should any additional information need to be shared with families this will be done so in a timely manner.

Kind Regards

Mrs .A. Brogden  
HeadTeacher