



# Hanbury's Farm Community Primary School

Federated with Oakhill Community Primary School

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Dear Parents,

You will have seen in the news over the past few days, about Group A Streptococcal infections (GAS), including scarlet fever and the high number of cases currently.

Group A Streptococcal infections (including scarlet fever) are caused by Streptococcal bacteria. The bacteria usually causes a mild infection with symptoms including a sore throat, high temperature or scarlet fever that can be easily treated with antibiotics.

However, in more severe cases, the symptoms of GAS can include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. This can be followed by a fine red rash (Scarlet Fever) 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. Scarlett Fever may include what doctors call a 'strawberry tongue' – because its appearance looks a bit like a strawberry.

**If any of the above symptoms develop, parents should be advised to speak to their GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible.**

If suspected they will be prescribed antibiotics and they should stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection.

Simple measures you can take to minimise the risk of infection include:

- Continue to encourage effective hand hygiene using liquid soap & warm water.
- Alcohol hand gel can be used if hands are not visibly dirty.
- Continue to encourage good respiratory hygiene (using tissues etc)
- Continue to regularly clean surfaces that people touch frequently.

It is believed the current problem is being exacerbated by the large number of viral infections currently circulating, including flu, Covid and others. Therefore, we would encourage parents of those children who have not yet had or consented to have the flu vaccine, to do so, as well as the COVID-19 vaccine if eligible. You can contact your GP surgery for information regarding this.

In most cases the infection should clear but if you are concerned about the condition of your child (especially in young children) you should trust your judgement and seek urgent medical attention (call 999 or go to A&E) especially if:

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

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information on what to do if your child has any of the above symptoms.

In the vast majority of cases, the infection will clear by itself or after a course of antibiotics.

Any concerns about your child contact your GP surgery or 111 for advice.

Kind regards

Mrs N Gripton  
Executive Headteacher  
Federation of Hanbury's Farm and Oakhill Primary Schools