



Church of England School
Executive Head and CEO: Dr Hilary Macaulay

7th December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Invasive Group A Streptococcus (GAS)

You may have seen in the news recently that cases of Invasive Group A Streptococcus (GAS) infections (Strep A) and Scarlet Fever are currently on the rise. The invasive condition is caused by a bacteria called Group A Streptococci, which usually causes mild illnesses such as strep throat and Scarlet Fever.

I can confirm that we have been notified this afternoon of one confirmed case of Strep A in Year 7. The student has not been in school since Friday 2nd December, and we want to remain vigilant. We have sought advice from Public Health England and the symptoms are

- fever
- a sore throat
- headache
- severe muscle aches
- localised muscle tenderness as well as a fine, pinkish or red body rash which feels like sandpaper to the touch. On darker skin, this will be more difficult to see but will still have a sandpaper feel.

Group A Strep is a bacteria which often lives harmlessly on our skin but can also cause a variety of illnesses, most of them mild and non-invasive.

Scarlet Fever is a common type of Group A Strep infection, which is currently circulating at higher levels than is usual for the time of year.

Streptococcus bacteria survive in throats and on hands/skin and the bacteria is spread from person to person by sneezing, kissing and skin contact. Most people who come into contact with Group A Streptococcal infections remain well and symptom-free, or develop a mild throat or skin infection. However, on very rare occasions, these bacteria can cause severe disease if they get into a part of the body where bacteria are not normally found such as the blood, muscle or the lungs.

Please contact NHS 111 or your GP if you suspect you or your child has developed any of these symptoms. Early treatment with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications such as pneumonia or a bloodstream infection.

Address: Hume Way, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 8EE ∞ **Telephone:** 01895 639227
Email: office@bishopramsey.school ∞ **Website:** www.bishopramseyschool.org

We hope that we might be able to avoid this infection and reduce its transmission by being careful. Having said that, please ensure that your children are in school if they are well and we will always contact you to send home any students who we are concerned about. Similarly, we would be grateful if you could let us know if your child(ren) are confirmed as having Scarlet Fever/confirmed case of Strep A as you would normally do the Attendance Team for any absence from school.

Yours sincerely,

Hilary Macaulay