



REDHILL SCHOOL

12th January 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

We have been informed that one member of our school community (from year 7), has been diagnosed with Group A Streptococcal (GAS) infection. We have reported this case to Dudley Public Health (DPH) and we are following their advice and guidance. The information below is from DPH and may help answer any questions you may have. We will continue to work with DPH, alongside keeping all of our parents updated if circumstances change.

I have also attached some information from the NHS around the prevention of spreading infections within schools.

Information from Dudley Public Health

Although GAS is usually a mild illness, it should be treated with antibiotics to minimise the risk of complications and reduce the spread to others.

*The **symptoms** of GAS include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. This is 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.*

If you think you, or your child, have scarlet fever:

- *see your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible*
- *make sure that you/your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor.*
- *stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for **at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment**, to avoid spreading the infection.*

Complications

*Children who have had **chickenpox** recently are more likely to develop more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever and so 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.

If you have any further questions then please contact us and we will do our best to answer these.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Clayton
Headteacher

“Commitment to excellence”