



# Lime Wood Primary School



*'To deliver a curriculum that is provided by good teachers underpinned by an effective blueprint for excellence in culture, behaviour, attainment and wellbeing – to find the champion in everyone'*

15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

We have been informed that the school has some cases of suspected/confirmed Group A strep infection and chickenpox.

We have contacted our local Health Protection team, who have provided us with the following advice to share with you.

## Chickenpox

Chickenpox is a common childhood illness. It causes a rash of red, itchy spots that turn into fluid-filled blisters. They then crust over to form scabs, which eventually drop off. To prevent spreading the infection, keep children off nursery or school until all the spots have crusted over.

For most children, chickenpox is a mild illness that gets better on its own. But some children can become more seriously ill and need to see a doctor. Contact your GP straight away if your child develops any abnormal symptoms, for example:

- if the blisters on their skin become infected
- if your child has a pain in their chest or has difficulty breathing

## Group A Strep infections



- Most Group A Streptococcus illnesses are relatively mild, with symptoms including a sore throat ("strep throat"), scarlet fever or a skin infection such as impetigo
- If you suspect, your child has a "strep throat" or impetigo they will need to see your GP or contact NHS111 as they will require antibiotic treatment.


## Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS)

The same bacteria which cause scarlet fever can also cause a range of other types of infection such as skin infections (impetigo) and sore throat. In very rare cases, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive group A strep (iGAS). Whilst still very uncommon, there has been an increase in iGAS cases this year, particularly in children under 10 years old. It is very rare for children with scarlet fever to develop iGAS infection.

As a parent, you should trust your own judgement.



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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.

Further information on scarlet fever and chickenpox are also available via the NHS website ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)):


Yours sincerely,

Miss C Ingrams


Headteacher



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