



# Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School

Excellence in how we worship, learn and work together

Curiosity Hope Empathy RESILIENCE CREATIVITY Happiness

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Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you in response to the recent rise in confirmed cases of Group A Streptococcus (Strep A) in the United Kingdom, which has led to serious illness amongst children under the age of 10 years old.

Strep A is caused by Streptococcus bacteria that are passed around through nose and mouth droplets. It is very common in children. Most sore throats, however, are caused by viruses and are not treated with antibiotics. Streptococcus is a bacterium which can colonise the throat, skin and anogenital tract. It causes a diverse range of skin, soft tissue and respiratory tract infections, including:

- tonsillitis
- pharyngitis
- scarlet fever
- impetigo

**Symptoms can include a sore throat, fever and minor skin infections.** In most cases, people can be treated with antibiotics and make a full recovery. In rare cases, however, Strep A can become a serious illness, and anyone with high fever, severe muscle aches, pain in one area of the body and unexplained vomiting or diarrhoea should seek urgent medical help.

You should contact NHS 111 or your GP if your child is suffering with the above symptoms and seems to be worsening, is feeding or eating much less than normal or has not been to the toilet for 12 hours or more, or shows other signs of dehydration. You should also seek help if your child is under three months and has a temperature of 38C, or is older than three months and has a temperature of 39C or higher.

You should call 999 or go to A&E if your child is having difficulty breathing, such as grunting noises or tummy sucking in under the ribs, pauses in breathing, blue colour to their skin, tongue or lips, or if they are floppy and will not wake up or stay awake.

At this time, there is no specific guidance from Public Health Lambeth on this matter but our school will keep you informed of any developments and will monitor the situation very carefully. We will ensure our cleaning procedures are intensified and continue to encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene throughout the school.

Please inform the school immediately if your child is diagnosed by your GP, or 111, as having Streptococcus bacteria in their system.

Take care and keep well.

Kind regards,

Mr Winn

