



TANFIELD  
SCHOOL

HARD WORK | TRUST | FAIRNESS

12<sup>th</sup> December 2022

## Strep A in the news

Dear parent/carer,

You may have seen in the news the stories about an increased number of Group A streptococcus (Strep A) cases compared to normal for this time of year. At this point we have had no reported cases but want to share with you some guidance produced by the Department for Education.

### What are scarlet fever and Strep A?

Scarlet fever is caused by bacteria called Group A streptococci (Strep A). The bacteria usually cause a mild infection that can be easily treated with antibiotics. In very rare occasions, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A strep (iGAS).

### What are the symptoms of Strep A/scarlet fever?

Strep A infections can cause a range of symptoms that parents should be aware of, including:

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever
- A fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel
- On darker skin the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel

If your child becomes unwell with these symptoms, please contact your GP practice or contact NHS 111 (which operates a 24/7 service) to seek advice.

If your child has scarlet fever, they should stay at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

Please trust your own judgement and if your child seems seriously unwell call 999 or go to A&E if:

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

TANFIELD SCHOOL  
HEADTEACHER Steven Clough BSc (Hons) NPQH

Tanfield Lea Road, Stanley, County Durham, DH9 8AY

enquiries@tanfieldschool.co.uk

01207 232 881

@TanfieldSchool @TanfieldSchool

www.tanfieldschool.co.uk

### **How to help prevent Strep A?**

To prevent the spread of Strep A, UKHSA advises children, young people and staff to implement good hand and respiratory hygiene practices.

Hopefully, we will continue to avoid having any cases in school. However, If your child does develop Strep A/Scarlet fever we would appreciate you letting us know so that we can put in place mitigations to prevent any further spread.

Take care,

Mr S Clough  
Headteacher