

# ST MARK'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Headteacher: Ms Laura Kelsey BA (Hons), PGCE, CEPQH

5th December 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

You may have heard on the news over the weekend about an increase in lower respiratory tract Group A strep infections (strep throat) in children over the past few weeks, which have caused severe illness.

According to the UK Health Security Agency, there is no evidence that a new strain is circulating. There are lots of viruses that cause sore throats, colds and coughs circulating. These should resolve without medical intervention. However, children can on occasion develop a bacterial infection on top of a virus and that can make them more unwell.

As a parent, if you feel that your child seems seriously unwell, you should trust your own judgement. Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is eating or drinking much less than normal · your child shows signs of dehydration
- your child is very tired or irritable

As a school, we are continuing to follow our normal processes with regards to children and school attendance when unwell. Please do not send your child/children to school if they have any of the following Strep throat related symptoms:

- Throat pain that usually comes on quickly;
- Painful swallowing (that requires remedies);
- Red and swollen tonsils, sometimes with white patches or streaks of pus;
- Tiny red spots on the area at the back of the roof of the mouth (soft or hard palate);
- Swollen, tender lymph nodes in the neck;
- Fever (temperature over 37.8);
- Headache (severe enough to require pain relief);
- Rash;

If your child does fall unwell and is prescribed antibiotics, they are welcome back to school 24 hours after commencing the appropriate treatment, and are feeling well enough to be in school.

If you are ever unsure about whether to send your child in or not, please call the school office for guidance. We would always rather have children in school where possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Kelsey'.

Laura Kelsey (Ms)

Headteacher



**Brantridge Lane, Staplefield, West Sussex RH17 6EN**  
**T (01444) 400398 F (01444) 401244 E office@st-marks.w-sussex.sch.uk**  
**www.st-marks.w-sussex.sch.uk**