



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Executive Head teacher: Mrs K Yuen

www.stmaryscatholicprimary.northants.sch.uk

7th December 2022

Dear Parents,

As a school, we are of course aware of reports in the news about an infection called Strep A and scarlet fever and our understanding is currently that it is very rare for people to get extremely ill from these. Whilst there is currently no official guidance from the Department for Education, we thought it would be a useful time for us all to remember some of the basic hygiene measures we were so familiar with during COVID that are generally helpful at this time of year.

We will be reminding children of the following measures in school, and we would welcome you reinforcing these measures at home in the hope that we can help reduce the spread of many infections that are more common at this time of year.

Respiratory and cough hygiene

The old saying of “coughs and sneezes spread diseases” is a reminder of the importance of the following aspects:

- cover nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing and sneezing, dispose of used tissue in a waste bin, and clean hands
- cough or sneeze into the inner elbow (upper sleeve) if no tissues are available, rather than into the hand
- keep hands away from your eyes, mouth, and nose after sneezing or coughing.

Hand hygiene

- Wash hands more frequently with warm water and soap, as well as after using the bathroom and before eating.
- Use hand sanitiser gel if it is difficult to wash with soap and water.

According to the UK Health & Security Agency, ‘Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, but it is highly infectious. Therefore, look out for symptoms in your child, which include a sore throat, headache, and fever, along with a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel. Contact NHS 111 or your GP if you suspect your child has scarlet fever, because early treatment of scarlet fever with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications. If your child has scarlet fever, keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others’.

Many thanks as always for your support,

Yours sincerely

K. Yuen

Mrs K. Yuen

Executive Headteacher



**OUR LADY
IMMACULATE**
CATHOLIC ACADEMIES TRUST

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