

Tudor Grange Samworth Academy

A Church of England School



Dear Parent / Carer,

We are 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 sick from these. Whilst we are waiting for official Department for Education guidance, 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.

Teachers will be reminding pupils of the following measures from today in school and we would welcome you supporting these messages at home that will 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 sanitizer 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.** On darker skin, the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have 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’.*

Please refer to the school sickness and absence policy that you can find on our website <https://www.samworth.tgacademy.org.uk/files/2022/09/Attendance-Policy-TGSA-22.pdf#pupil-attendance-and-punctuality-policy/>. If your child is unwell and cannot attend school, the first point of call is of course your GP, to telephone NHS 111, or 999 in an emergency.

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International
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Healthy Schools

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A Church of England School



We will send more information as we receive it but, in the meantime, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the school reception as normal.

Yours sincerely,

Aiden Bannon
Head of School

Anika Collins
Head of Primary

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