

Brabourne Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Andrew Stapley

7th December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Schools today have been issued some guidance and further information from KCC Public Health regarding the ongoing rise in cases of invasive Group A Streptococcus (iGAS) being seen across the country.

I think it is important to note that Group A Streptococcus (GAS) is a relatively common bacteria and most illnesses are relatively mild, with symptoms including a sore throat ("strep throat"), scarlet fever or a skin infection such as impetigo.

However, on rare occasions, these bacteria can cause other severe and sometimes life-threatening diseases.

It is advised that schools and parents are vigilant for the symptoms of scarlet fever. Although this is usually a mild illness, it should be treated with antibiotics to minimise the risk of complications and reduce the spread to others.

To help prevent the spread of this illness, parents are advised to take extra precautions and seek medical advice quickly if children appear unusually unwell. Please do not send your children to school if they have a temperature or any of the symptoms of scarlet fever. The advice from the NHS with regard to scarlet fever is that children can return to school 24 hours after they started taking antibiotics.

Look out for symptoms in your child, which include:

- 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.)

Attached is a fact sheet for parents about Group A Streptococcus (GAS)/Scarlet Fever from the UK Health Security Agency – I would advise all parents to read this carefully.

Kind regards



Andrew Stapley
Headteacher