



## Ashford Park Primary School

'Inspiring a love for lifelong learning'

30<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **SICKNESS IN SCHOOL**

We are writing again to address the justified anxiety around the current high level of sickness in school because of various common childhood illnesses including Influenza, Scarlet Fever, Strep Throat and Chicken Pox.

**To confirm we do not currently have a confirmed case of Invasive Group A Strep in school, if this changes we will communicate this to our community.**

We are in contact with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) who are aware of the situation and are advising us.

We are not alone in suffering from unprecedented levels of sickness amongst our school population; this is a **national picture** with many other schools around the country in the same position.

The UK Health Security Agency have explained that this situation is largely attributed to the long periods of isolation that we endured during Covid and the fact that many of our younger children did not have the opportunity to build up their immunity.

We understand that there is some confusion around the Group A Streptococcal bacteria that causes Strep throat, Scarlet Fever and Impetigo, which most people easily recover from.

For a very few people, 3 or 4 per 100,000, this bacteria can invade parts of the body such as the blood and this is called Invasive Group A Strep. This can affect both adults and children and the medical profession do not know why some people are more susceptible than others.

Should we have a confirmed case of Invasive Group A Strep, we would take further advice from UKHSA who would consider what further precautions or resources are necessary.

Please be reassured that we understand your concerns and are doing all we can in school to manage this situation, we will update you should anything change.

We understand that there has been a lot of activity on social media regarding the situation in school.

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Tarrant

Ashford Park Primary School | Station Crescent | Ashford | Middlesex TW15 3HN

T. 01784 250305 | [www.ashford-park.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.ashford-park.surrey.sch.uk)





## Ashford Park Primary School

'Inspiring a love for lifelong learning'

Please can we remind those responsible that it is unhelpful to spread false information and this has made an already difficult situation worse.

If you are concerned, please read the communications sent out via Parentmail or contact the school through the appropriate channels.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Tarrant

Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Tarrant

Ashford Park Primary School | Station Crescent | Ashford | Middlesex TW15 3HN

T. 01784 250305 | [www.ashford-park.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.ashford-park.surrey.sch.uk)

