

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Following the very sad news of the death of a child in a Lewisham school last week from Group A Strep, we want to provide reassurance that as a school we are monitoring the situation closely and following all Government advice.

Group A Strep usually causes a mild infection, producing a sore throat or scarlet fever – which can be easily treated with antibiotics. In very rare circumstances, the bacteria can enter the bloodstream and cause this more serious illness. **This is uncommon** but it is important that staff and parents are on the lookout for symptoms and see a doctor as soon as possible to get treatment.

**Current advice from the UK Health Security Agency** – which we will be following – includes:

- If your child is well they should continue to attend school
- If your child is ill, please follow normal absence procedures which is to phone the school office or email between 8am – 8:30am. Absent pupils will be followed up by Miss Michell if contact is not made.
- children or adults with scarlet fever should not return to school/college until at least 24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment
- Parents and carers should look out for symptoms including sore throats, fever, chills and muscle aches and **seek GP advice if concerned**
- **Good hygiene is essential** to prevent the spread of bugs – particularly hand washing, which we will be ensuring is taking place regularly in all our schools

If you have any queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the school. We will provide you with any updates we receive from the DfE and/or the UKHSA.

Kind regards,

Mrs Hopkins and Mrs Arkwright