

4th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and would like to wish all our families a Happy New Year.

As you may have seen on the news there has been a rising case of both children and adults being unwell with various illnesses including: covid, flu and strep A. We would like to share with you the latest government guidance from the Health Agency and ask that you work with the school to follow this advice and keep our pupils and staff as safe as possible.

[Back to school advice issued amid high levels of flu, COVID-19 and scarlet fever](#)

Following simple steps can help protect children, minimise the spread of illness in education and childcare settings and protect wider communities.

Flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) are currently circulating at high levels and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also continue to be reported.

Professor Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Adviser at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), said:

It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.

Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.

Remember that flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and is the best protection against the virus. We have seen good uptake in older age groups but vaccination among young children remains low. Flu can be very unpleasant and in some cases can lead to more serious illness. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and others they come into contact with, and it's still not too late.

Eligible children include:

- *those aged 2 and 3 on 31 August 2022*
- *all primary school-aged children*
- *some secondary school-aged children*

You can get more information [getting your child vaccinated against flu on NHS.UK](#).

UK Health Security Agency press office

We know that illnesses can spread very rapidly around schools and I'm sure you can appreciate that being extra cautious during this critical time will help to safeguard us from outbreaks of illness which leads to a high level of staff absence and a disruption in the children's education and experiences.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Please can we also remind parents/carers to report pupils not attending school by 8:30am on the morning of your child's absence.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Hopkins and Mrs Arkwright