

December 6, 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As there has been an increase of Strep A cases in the press we would like to share with you the key symptoms to look out for. This information has been taken from the online NHS guidance.

'Group A Streptococci (GAS) are a type of bacteria. Many people carry these bacteria harmlessly in their throat or on their skin, and have no symptoms of illness. Infection occurs when people with GAS develop symptoms, GAS infection is contagious.

**The most common symptoms of GAS infection are:**

- A mild sore throat or
- A skin infection called impetigo
- There may also be flu-like symptoms and muscle tenderness.

**How can the spread of GAS be prevented?**

- Wash your hands thoroughly with hot soapy water after contact with a person who has been diagnosed with GAS infection and ensure you dry them thoroughly
- If you have a GAS infection, try and stay away from people with a weakened immune system until you have had 24 hrs of antibiotics.

Children who have GAS infection should not go to school until 24 hours after you begin treatment and until they are well enough to go back.'

I hope you have found this information useful. If you need to report any cases please email [enquiries@kirkhamgate.outwood.com](mailto:enquiries@kirkhamgate.outwood.com) or call the office on 01924 907436

Yours faithfully

Mrs. L Cooke  
Head of School