



# Christ the King Catholic Primary School

We love, aspire and serve with Christ our King

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Families,

**Re: Invasive Group A Streptococcus. iGAS**

I'm sure you will have read with great sadness about the rise of Strep A cases across the country and the number of fatalities that have occurred recently. I thought that it would be helpful to reissue the guidance that was sent out in October – please find this below. We are encouraging all of our children to wash their hands frequently and following the catch it, bin it, kill it advice.

Group A Streptococcus (GAS) is a bacterium often found in the throat and on the skin.

Most GAS infections are relatively mild illnesses such as "strep throat", scarlet fever or impetigo. On rare occasions, these bacteria can cause other severe and even life-threatening infection. The most important thing to be aware of are the early signs and symptoms of invasive disease which are shown in the box below.

Early signs and symptoms of invasive group A streptococcal disease

- High Fever
- Severe muscle aches
- Localised muscle tenderness
- Redness at the site of a wound

**If your child becomes ill with some of these signs or symptoms, please immediately attend A&E for emergency assessment.**

If your child develops a mild infection such as a sore throat, skin infection or rash, we advise that you take them to see their GP. The GP can arrange for your child to be tested if necessary and treated with antibiotics. If so your child will also need to remain off school/nursery for 24 hours following the start of the antibiotics.

**Infection control advice:** Parents/guardians can also help with this by reminding children of the importance of coughing / sneezing into tissues and placing these in the bin, washing hands regularly and ensuring any breaks to the skin are covered with a waterproof plaster/dressing before attending school.

**Further information:** You can find more information at:

- UKHSA Group A streptococcus

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/group-a-streptococcal-infections-guidance-and-data>

If you have any further questions, please contact the school on 01517223462

Yours sincerely

David Delaney

Head Teacher

