



Brookburn Road
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Executive Headteacher – Jayne Kennedy
Head of School – Jennifer Holden



23rd January 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Chickenpox, shingles, measles and scarlet fever

As is often the case this time of year, we are seeing an increase in infectious diseases and ask for your co-operation in reporting any of the illnesses below:

- Chickenpox
- Measles
- Scarlet Fever (Strep A)

It is also important that you let us know if there is shingles in your household.

This is because we are required to report cases to the Greater Manchester Health Protection Team.

In addition, there are several pupils in school who are vulnerable to further illness if they contract such childhood diseases due to a weakened immune system.

Please find below some additional information:

Chickenpox

Sudden onset of fever, runny nose, cough and a generalised rash. The spotty rash starts with fluid filled blisters which then scab over and eventually drop off.

Chickenpox is highly infectious and spreads by respiratory secretions or by direct contact with fluid from blisters.

If we notice chickenpox on your child in school, they will be sent home immediately and must not return until all the blisters have dried and crusted over.

Measles

Runny nose; cough; conjunctivitis (sore, itchy, watery, red and sticky eyes); high fever and small white spots (Koplik spots) inside the cheeks. Around day 3 of the illness, a rash of





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flat red or brown blotches appear, beginning on the face, behind the ears and spreading over the body. The incubation period is between 10 to 12 days but can vary from 7 to 21 days.

Children with measles must not attend school until 4 days after the onset of the rash (where the date of the rash onset is day 0).

Scarlet Fever (Strep A)

High fever, difficulty swallowing and tender enlarged lymph nodes. The rash develops on the first day of fever, it is red, generalised, pinhead in size and gives the skin a sandpaper-like texture and the tongue has a strawberry-like appearance.

If you suspect scarlet fever, you must contact your GP and your child must not attend school until 24 hours after commencing appropriate antibiotic treatment.

If no antibiotics have been administered, children will be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks and should not be in school for this period.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

School Office

