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Dear Parents and Carers,

You may be aware of the tragic death of a child in Ashford from an invasive strand of Group A streptococcal (GAS) infection.

In most cases; the common infections caused by Group A streptococcus are mild. They include a sore throat, often referred to as strep throat, mild fever, and minor skin infections.

In rare cases, this infection can be more serious and cause invasive disease. Whilst the risk is low, it is important to be aware of the signs and symptoms.

These are:

• **Very high fever** • **Severe muscle aches** • **Localised muscle pain** • **Unexplained diarrhoea or vomiting**

**If someone becomes ill with these symptoms, you should call NHS 111.**

We have had one case of Strep A reported to the school and the child has been given antibiotics.

If your child is diagnosed with Strep A, you should follow medical advice. Once your child feels better and have been taking the antibiotics for 24 hours, your child is expected back in school. They are not a danger to the rest of the community. This is the latest advice from Public Health.

We advise that all of us take extra precautions by washing our hands regularly and looking out for the symptoms mentioned above.

If you are worried whether your child has Strep A please contact your GP surgery or ring the NHS on 111.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs M C Nowak

Headteacher