



Crookhill Community Primary School
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9th December 2022

FRIDAY LETTER

Dear parents and carers,

School Meals Online Payment System

We hope to go live with our new online payment system over the next 2 weeks. Parents will receive an email with instructions to set up their Parent Portal. This will allow you to pay for meals, trips and uniform online. A text will be sent home prior to the email so it is not missed. All parents should set up a Parent Portal, even if they don't currently pay for meals. Can any parents with an outstanding meal balance please bring this up to date over the next two weeks, thank you.

Christmas Fayre

Thank you so much to everyone who came along to our Christmas Fayre on Monday, it was wonderful to see the school packed with friends and family again. Santa Claus is still reading the wish lists that were posted to him and he thoroughly enjoyed meeting you all. The fayre helped us raise an amazing £1441.50 for school funds! This helps us subsidise school trips and activities and goes towards extra resources for your children.

Christmas Dates

A reminder of the many events and exciting activities over the next few weeks.

Tue 13th Dec- Christmas Dinner Day

Mon 19th Dec- Reception/Key Stage One Nativity 1.45pm

Tue 20th Dec- Reception/Key Stage One Nativity 9.30am

Tue 20th Dec- Reception and Key Stage 1 Christmas Party afternoon

Wed 21st Dec- Key Stage Two Carol Service at Holy Cross Church 10am

Wed 21st Dec- Key Stage 2 Christmas Party afternoon

Thu 22nd Dec- Christmas Music Workshop

Fri 23rd Dec- Winter Jumper Day for Save the Children

Break up for the end of term holidays, return to school on Monday 9th January 2023.

Winter Illnesses

Lots of children in all classes have been absent this week due to coughs, colds and some very nasty winter illnesses. If anyone would like a copy of the NHS Little Orange Book please call into the school office, it's a very

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handy reference for childhood illnesses, their treatment and isolation period. Please read the following information from Public Health.

Dear Parent(s) / Carer(s),

Re: Increase in scarlet fever

We are writing to inform you of a recent increase in notifications of scarlet fever to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), above seasonal expected levels.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the signs, symptoms and the actions to be taken if you think that you or your child might have scarlet fever.

Signs and symptoms of scarlet fever

Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes* or group A Streptococcus (GAS). It is not usually serious but should be treated with antibiotics to reduce the risk of complications (such as pneumonia) and spread to others. The early symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours, the characteristic red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on darker skin, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present. Patients typically have flushed cheeks and be pale around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a bright red red 'strawberry' tongue.

If you think you, or your child, might have scarlet fever:

- contact your GP or NHS 111 as soon as possible
- make sure that you or your child take(s) the full course of any antibiotics prescribed. Although you or your child will feel better soon after starting the course of antibiotics, you must complete the course to ensure that you do not carry the bacteria in your throat after you have recovered
- stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection

You can help stop the spread of infection through frequent hand washing and by not sharing eating utensils, clothes, bedding and towels. All contaminated tissues should be disposed of immediately.

Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS)

The same bacteria which cause scarlet fever can also cause a range of other types of infection such as skin infections (impetigo) and sore throat. In very rare cases, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive group A strep (iGAS). Whilst still very uncommon, there has been an increase in iGAS cases this year, particularly in children under 10 years old. It is very rare for children with scarlet fever to develop iGAS infection.

As a parent, you should trust your own judgement.

Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39C or higher

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- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable

Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

Stop the spread

During periods of high incidence of scarlet fever, there may also be an increase in outbreaks in schools, nurseries and other childcare settings. Children and adults with suspected scarlet fever should stay off nursery / school / work until **24 hours** after the start of appropriate antibiotic treatment. Good hygiene practice such as hand washing remains the most important step in preventing and controlling spread of infection.

Resources

[NHS – Scarlet Fever](#)

[Scarlet fever: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment](#)

[Health protection in education and childcare settings](#)

[Hand hygiene resources for schools](#)

Christingle Service

Holy Cross Church will be holding a family friendly Christingle Service to start the Christmas season on Sunday 11th at 10.30am. A collection will be held in aid of The Children's Society.

The weather has turned much colder this week, please ensure that children always have a warm coat, hat and gloves during the winter months, to stay cosy for outside playtimes.

Enjoy your weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Miss K McCormack

Head Teacher

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