

6th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year!

Wishing all the Alexandra Park Junior School community a Happy New Year! We have had a great start to the year and children are settled back into their learning environment once again. May this year be full of hope in our eyes and love in our hearts. 365 days of opportunities and already we have had 5 of those spent.



School start time

Just to remind all families that children must be in school for 8.40am. It is vital that your child is in school and on time so that learning can begin for all children. We are monitoring any children who are coming into school late and we wish to work with parents/carers in supporting any barriers to enable the children to be in school on time. If you wish to make contact beforehand please do contact the office via Class Dojo or on 0161 770 8321.

Health Update

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. 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. On white skin the rash looks pink or red. On brown and black skin, it might be harder to see a change in colour, but you can still feel the sandpaper-like texture of the rash and see the raised bumps.

For more information please do see the attached fact sheet.

Let's get reading - BOOM Reader

"If you are going to get anywhere in life you have to read a lot of books." -
Roald Dahl



Well done to all the children and families who have logged onto Boom reader. We are pleased to announce the most home reading logs recorded on Boom reader this week.

Position	Name	Reads at home
First Place	Mahjabin Ayaz Class 10	10 home reads
Second place	Haroon Mohammad Class 6	8 home reads
Third Place	Oluwadamilola Omo-Osagie Class 1 Fasih Chaudhry Class 12 Aleena Ahmed Class 2	7 home reads



Spelling Shed Winners

Place	Total points awarded for correct spellings	Child
1st	15,567,792	Haroon Mohammed - Class 6
2nd	15,420,733	Anus Kousar - Class 11
3rd	14,758,268	Samson Omos - Class 9

TT Rockstars - CELEBRATIONS!



The most accurate Class	Class 11
The most active class	Class 5
The most improved speed	Habiba Noor Class 6
The most active player	Ibrahim Shamraz Class 3

Word Aware

This week's word is 'smouldering'. Please encourage your child to use this word when out and about and complete the activities, which Miss Varley will share on Class Dojo.



Dates for next week:

Monday 9th January - Class 1 Linking Project

Wednesday 11th January - SAT's Meeting for year 6 parents - 2.30pm



Fact sheet for schools and parents about Group A Streptococcus (GAS) and Scarlet Fever.

What is Group A Streptococcus?

Group A Streptococcus or *Streptococcus pyogenes* is a bacterium that can be found in the throat and on the skin. People may carry it and have no symptoms of illness or may develop infection.

How is it spread?

Group A Streptococcus survives in throats and on skin for long enough to allow easy spread between people through sneezing and skin contact. People who are currently carrying the bacteria in the throat or on the skin may have symptoms of illness or they may have no symptoms and feel fine. In both cases, these bacteria can be passed on to others.

What kinds of illnesses are caused by Group A Streptococcus?

Most Group A Streptococcus illnesses are relatively mild, with symptoms including a sore throat ("strep throat"), scarlet fever or a skin infection such as impetigo. However, on rare occasions, these bacteria can cause other severe and sometimes life-threatening diseases.

Although scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, it should be treated with antibiotics to minimise the risk of complications and reduce the spread to others. Children should **stay at home until at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment** to avoid spreading the infection.

The **symptoms** of scarlet fever include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. This is followed by a fine red rash which typically first appears on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body. On more darkly pigmented skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, but it will still feel like 'sandpaper'. The face can be flushed red but pale around the mouth.

Children who have had **chickenpox** or **influenza ('flu)** recently are more likely to develop more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever and so parents should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high fever, cellulitis (skin infection) and arthritis (joint pain and swelling). If you are concerned for any reason please seek medical assistance immediately.

What is invasive Group A Streptococcal (iGAS) disease?

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
- 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

Do contacts of a case of scarlet fever require antibiotics?

Contacts of Scarlet Fever cases (including siblings or household members) who are well and do not have symptoms **do not** require antibiotics and can continue to attend the setting. They should seek treatment if they develop symptoms.

There is no increased risk of complications for pregnant women but if you are concerned please discuss with your midwife.

What else can I do to prevent my child from becoming unwell?

Because Group A Streptococcal disease is spread through coughing, sneezing and skin contact, it is important to have good hand hygiene and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues and throw these away. If you are unwell, stay at home and seek medical advice. This will all help limit the spread of other infections, which are common this time of year.