



Radley CE Primary School & Foundation Stage Unit

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Wednesday 14th December 2022

Dear Parents,

I am sure that the news and the two recent letters I sent regarding cases of Scarlet Fever has caused a great deal of concern in the school community and I wanted to reassure you that, as with Covid-19 previously, we have assessed the risk and put actions in place to limit the spread as advised.

We are currently following guidelines from Oxfordshire County Council and PHE -who incidentally have asked that we do not contact them unless we have both of Scarlet Fever and Chickenpox/flu or children have been hospitalised - neither of which are the case at Radley presently. They sent information and outbreak actions directly to schools, which we have duly acted on. These include a focus on regular effective handwashing, enhanced cleaning regimes and good hygiene with coughs and sneezes being caught in a tissue and disposed of and washing hands directly afterwards.

To reassure you in terms of the numbers, we currently have 3 cases of confirmed Scarlet Fever presently and no cases with further complications. Some children who initially were unwell have now returned as they feel well enough and have been on antibiotics for over 24 hours, as is the guidance. We also have several other illnesses in school, which as you can imagine, is normal at this time of year. These illnesses have been further exacerbated due to children not being exposed to the 'normal' winter bugs from their peers due to lockdowns and isolation.

I understand the desire to remove your child from an environment in which you perceive a risk, however a lack of antibiotics has, thus far, not been an issue for anyone in our school community. Unfortunately even though I can appreciate why, I am unable to authorise absences due to parents wanting to protect their children from the risk of illness if they are not presently unwell, as if they are in Reception to Y6 the law says they must be in school. Parents of children in nursery can keep their children at home if they wish, as this is not statutory.

I hope this update goes some way to helping clarify the current picture. I will of course inform you if anything changes in the meantime.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Thomas
Headteacher