

5th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Advice and Guidance for Parents/Carers from the UKHSA

We hope this letter finds you well and you have had a restful Christmas break. We were very pleased to welcome all students back to school at the start of the Spring Term on Thursday 5th January. This letter is to provide you with important information and advice amid high levels of flu, COVID-19, and scarlet fever. As students return to school following the Christmas break, UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is reminding people that winter illnesses continue to circulate at high levels.

Following simple steps can help protect students, minimising the spread of illness in education settings and protect wider communities. Flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) are [currently circulating at high levels](#) and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also [continue to be reported](#).

Professor Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Adviser at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), has given the following advice:

It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school until they feel better, and the fever has resolved.

Helping young people to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, for example by practicing regular handwashing with soap and warm water and by using tissues to catch coughs and sneezes, then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.

Flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and will be available for Years 7-9 on Tuesday 10th January in school. You can get more information [getting your child vaccinated against flu](#) on NHS.UK.

We will continue to encourage all students to practice good hand hygiene and reinforce the mantra of Catch It, Bin It, Kill It, infection prevention control message with students, to minimise the risk of spreading illness. Students are also encouraged to bring tissues and hand sanitiser to school.

It is important we all play our part in minimising the risk of spreading illness and the advice given, is to ensure we can keep our schools open and protect the NHS. The guidance from the UKHSA can be found [here](#).

Yours faithfully



Mrs M Goodes
Acting Principal

