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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to follow up on the official letter that has been shared with you from the Health Agency. I wanted to share some extra information that has been sent regarding control measures that we can all take to reduce the spread of infection in school and at home.

The Health Agency has stated that in nurseries and schools, it is recognised that infections can be spread through direct physical contact between children and staff, and through shared contact with surfaces such as table tops, taps, toys and handles. Therefore, we wanted to highlight the following hygiene and infection control measures as set out by the government that we can all adhere too:

- Children and adults with streptococcal throat infection (as <u>confirmed by a clinician</u>) or scarlet fever should not return to nursery or school until at least 24 hours after starting treatment with an appropriate antibiotic (after 48 hours if treated for impetigo)
- Hand hygiene use liquid soap and water followed by method of drying, preferably paper towels
- Increase frequency and enhanced cleaning of key areas, especially bathrooms and alltouch surfaces. In school, we will ensure that we increase the frequency of cleaning within the classrooms that we have had confirmed cases.
- Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette (Catch It Bin It, Kill It.)
- Children and staff should be reminded that all scrapes or wounds, especially bites, should be thoroughly cleaned and covered
- Sore throat: parents should follow <u>NHS advice</u> about when to contact their GP or NHS 111 if they are concerned; <u>NHS advice</u> is that children with sore throat **and fever** should not attend school until well.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Gordon-Weeks

