



HALTON LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER 08

7th December 2022



This week (on Monday) our Year 1 children went to spread some Christmas cheer amongst some of the older and isolated members of our local community – by going to entertain a group of local residents that were meeting at Grangeway Community Centre.

Their singing was so impressive that they were overheard by Father Christmas as he was flying past – and he dropped in to wish them all a Merry Christmas and gifted each of them with a selection box (for putting on such a fantastic performance).

The children then handed out some hand-made Christmas cards – to wish the adults who were there a Very Happy Christmas.

This was a great way to get everybody in the Christmas Spirit!

Christmas Craft Workshops

There are still a small number of places available for any families who wish to sign up to come along to the Christmas Craft Workshop that is taking place after school on Thursday 15th December (next week).

Places can be booked via School Spider until all of the remaining places are filled.



Tickets for the school Christmas Hamper raffle are now on sale!

At the beginning of this week you should have received an envelope with some raffle tickets inside. If, for any reason, you haven't please check with your child's class teacher in the first instance – to see if there are any spare envelopes in the classroom. If not, extra tickets can be obtained from the school office.

Tickets are priced at 20p each – so £1 for a strip of five. *Please do not feel obliged to purchase any tickets (and simply return any unsold tickets to the school office – so these can be handed to any families who wish to purchase or sell more).* However, if you can support this school fundraising event, it would be very much appreciated!

Please remember to write your name (and your child's name or telephone number) on the back of each individual ticket – so we can quickly contact you if you win!

Any tickets that are purchased must be returned to school – with the correct money – by Wednesday 14th December (so we can ensure that everybody who has entered is included in the draw)!

Here are the hampers that you could win:



Christmas Bingo

Thank you to everybody who came along to support our first school bingo event for such a long time. It was great to see the hall so busy and over £400 was raised on the evening.



A special THANK YOU must go to Kirsty Moremon and Lynsey Wilkinson (who purchased and wrapped all of the prizes) and to Mrs Moss and Mrs Dixon-Gibbon (who took on the role of Bingo Callers at short notice).

A number of other people helped to set up the hall, serve refreshments and coordinate the event – so 'Thank You' to everybody who was involved.

Infections and Diseases

UK Health Security Agency NHS

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No
but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek

QR code: SCAN ME
Advice and guidance
To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

As you will have undoubtedly heard in the media, regionally and nationally, we continue to see high rates of scarlet fever - higher than would be expected for this time of year. The same pattern continues to be seen with cases of invasive group A streptococcus (iGAS or Strep A), particularly in children under 10 years of age.

Strep A is a far less common infection caused by the same bacteria as scarlet fever but can lead to more serious illness.

Signs and symptoms of scarlet fever

Scarlet Fever is caused by bacteria called group A streptococci and is usually a mild illness. These bacteria also cause other respiratory and skin infections such as strep throat and impetigo (skin infection) – both of which are easily treatable with antibiotics.

Symptoms vary but the main symptoms include:

- flu-like symptoms, headache or high temperature (fever)
- sore throat or difficulty swallowing
- swollen neck glands (a large lump on the side of your neck).
- A fine, pinkish or red body rash, pinhead in size and with a sandpapery feel.
- On darker skin, the rash can be more difficult to see but will have a sandpapery feel. The rash usually develops on the first day of fever

- ‘Strawberry tongue’ – the tongue has a strawberry-like appearance, with a white coating which peels, leaving the tongue red, swollen and covered in little bumps

Actions to take:

It is recognised that infections can be spread through direct physical contact between children and adults and through shared contact with surfaces such as table tops, taps, toys and handles. Regular **hand washing** and maintaining good **respiratory hygiene** will, therefore, help reduce transmission of most infections. You should also consider **improving ventilation** and ensuring any cuts or scrapes are thoroughly cleaned and covered with waterproof dressings - to help prevent invasive infection.

- Children and adults with suspected scarlet fever should **not attend** nursery / school / work until **24 hours after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment** for scarlet fever.

- **Whilst scarlet fever is circulating it is especially important that any children and adults with chickenpox do stay off nursery or school until all their blisters have dried over**, which is at least 5 days after they first appeared.

In very rare occasions, the Strep A bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A Strep (iGAS). While still uncommon, there has been an increase in iGAS cases this year, particularly in children under 10 years of age.

Strep A – warning signs – advice for parents/carers

Serious disease from Strep A is very rare but invasive disease can be deadly.

Warning signs of invasive disease include:

- fever (a high temperature above 38C)
- severe muscle aches
- pain in one area of the body
- unexplained vomiting or diarrhoea

If anyone you know shows one or more of these symptoms, they should seek medical advice immediately, either through **NHS 111** or their GP.

Parents and carers are also encouraged to trust their own judgement if they think their child is seriously unwell – by calling 999 or going 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.