

9th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Principals Update - Term 2, Week 6

The end of another week at Oak and one we can be proud of, as we saw students, parents and staff pull together as community to make a generous contribution to the Westhowe and Kinson Food Bank. Students were invited to attend wearing their own clothes, with prizes for the most festive of outfits. There were plenty to choose from and the winners will be announced during our celebration assemblies at the end of next week.

On the day students made generous donations of food and non-food items and money was raised through our popular cake sale. Today we had the great pleasure of handing over our donation. Full details will follow in next week's newsletter.



Strep A and Scarlett Fever

I am aware that parents may be understandably concerned about recent events regarding illnesses in children, particularly regarding Strep A and Scarlet Fever.

The advice to follow is that provided by the government and the NHS, with some useful links below:

UKHSA update on scarlet fever and invasive Group A strep - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Scarlet fever: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Scarlet fever - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

Please also see overleaf for information sent to schools this week.

The advice below should be familiar to us all by now, but it is well worth revisiting:

Good hand and respiratory hygiene are important for stopping the spread of many bugs. By teaching your child how to wash their hands properly with soap and warm water for 20 seconds, using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, and keeping away from others when feeling unwell, they will be able to reduce the risk of picking up, or spreading, infections

Please report to our absence line if your child has a confirmed case of Strep A on 01202 242300

Oak Academy

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT Jon Webb, BA (Hons), Director of Secondary Education Hayley Richley BSc (Hons), Principal

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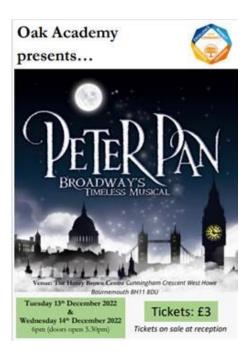


Peter Pan

Rehearsals are well underway for Peter Pan. Today students had the opportunity to go to The Henry Brown Centre for the first time, to rehearse on the stage. Tickets are still on sell from the school reception, via Parent Pay or from The Henry Brown Centre. On the evening there will be refreshments and raffle tickets on sale. We cannot wait to welcome you to enjoy our students hard work.

Key Dates

Date	Event
13 th /14 th	Peter Pan Production
December 14 th December	Year 11 PPE results
15 th December	KS3 Gym showcase 3.30 – 5pm.
	Details to follow
16 th December	Last Day of Term – 12.30pm finish.
	Reports to parents, Year 7-11
3 rd January	Inset Day. Year 11 students only
	onsite.
4 th January	School re-opens to all students,



Newsletter

Our newsletter is nearly complete and I look forward to sharing it with you next week. I still welcome any stories of success that you are proud of. Please send them to the email address below.

Celebrating Attendance

One last week 'To Be In To Win'. This weeks prize will be annouced on Monday. Our final przie will be handed our during celebration assemblies. All students need to do to be in with a chance to win is attend each day.

As always many thanks for your support. If you have any questions please do not hestiate to contact me at hayley.richley@oak-academy.co.uk.



Yours Sincerely,

Hayley Richley **Principal**

Oak Academy

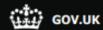
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Department for Education Update - 7 December 2022

Scarlet Fever and Group Strep A Infections

The Secretary of State for Education, Gillian Keegan, is closely monitoring the increased cases of Group A streptococcus (Strep A) and scarlet fever. As a Department, we are working closely with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), who are leading on the response.

UKHSA is reporting an increased number of cases of Group A streptococcus (Strep A) compared to normal at this time of year. There is no evidence that a new strain is circulating and the increase is most likely related to high amounts of circulating bacteria and social mixing.

What are scarlet fever and Strep A?

Scarlet fever is caused by bacteria called Group A streptococci (Strep A). The bacteria usually cause a mild infection that can be easily treated with antibiotics.

In very rare occasions, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A strep (iGAS).

What are the symptoms of Strep A/scarlet fever?

Strep A infections can cause a range of symptoms that parents should be aware of, including:

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever
- A fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel
- On darker skin the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel

If a child becomes unwell with these symptoms, please advise parents to contact their GP practice or contact NHS 111 (which operates a 24/7 service) to seek advice.

If a child has scarlet fever, advise they stay at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

Encourage parents to trust their own judgement and if their child seems seriously unwell call 999 or go to A&E if:

- a child is having difficulty breathing you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when a child breathes
- a child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- a child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake.

How to help prevent Strep A?

To prevent the spread of Strep A, UKHSA advises children, young people and staff to implement good hand and respiratory hygiene practices.

For more information visit the UKHSA website

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