

Our ref: MS/WG

4<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you had a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

The Department for Education published advice around the return to school after the Christmas break which may be useful for you to read:

*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), said:  
It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.*

*Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading.*

*Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if you do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell don't visit healthcare settings or visit vulnerable people unless urgent.*

*Remember that flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and is the best protection against the virus. We have seen good uptake in older age groups but vaccination among young children remains low. Flu can be very unpleasant and in some cases can lead to more serious illness. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and others they come into contact with, and it's still not too late.*

*Eligible children include:*

- those aged 2 and 3 on 31 August 2022
- all primary school-aged children
- some secondary school-aged children

*You can get more information [getting your child vaccinated against flu](#) on NHS.UK.*

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's keyworker or link worker in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,



**Mark Shears**  
**Principal**