

**Alternative Provision Service**

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Dear parents and carers,

As you will be aware, Step A is circulating across the UK, mostly in the form of scarlet fever and with this being highly infectious we are likely to see cases in St Helens in the coming days and weeks. Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, however, in very rare occasions, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A strep. Whilst still uncommon, there has been an increase in invasive Group A strep cases nationally, particularly in children under 10 and this has been reported in the news.

We have received the attached information from the Northwest Regional UKHSA team. This advice sheet is for parents and is based on national guidelines.

If you have any questions, please contact the Teacher in Charge of your child's teaching base and let us know if you have any concerns about your child.

Kind regards

*RL Guyer*

Rachel Guyer  
Head of School  
PACE and Launchpad  
Alternative Provision Service

[www.paceandlaunchpad.sthelens.gov.uk](http://www.paceandlaunchpad.sthelens.gov.uk)

**LAUNCHPAD**

