Coastal Together

'together aspire, together achieve, together we are stronger...'

Monday 12 December 2022

MIJS Christmas Events and Nativity Performance - Impact of Absences

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be well aware after Friday's closure of the Infant School, we have been experiencing significant and unusual amounts of absence as our children are suffering from a particularly virulent case of winter vomiting bug. We now also have a confirmed case of Strep A in school.

During Friday's closure the staff spent the day deep cleaning the entire Infant School and steps were also taken at the Junior School to target high traffic areas. In addition, we have implemented further control measures to halt the potential spread. In the Infant School children will eat lunch in class and only mix outside for at least Monday and Tuesday. They will remain on the Infant School playground and not mix with the Junior School and both schools will not have assemblies together. Wherever possible we are minimising contact, using measures that you will recognise from the recent pandemic.

To give you a better picture of the levels of absence please see the grids at the end of this letter for absence related to the winter vomiting bug or Strep A symptoms.

On Friday we also made the decision to postpone today's Infant Nativity performance. Unfortunately due to the continued absence levels today, as well as the children not having a chance to complete a dress rehearsal on Friday or today, **we have made the difficult decision to postpone tomorrow afternoon's (Tuesday) performance.** At this stage we are unsure what is the best thing to do in terms of rearranging this performance and going ahead with the performances later in the week.

Whilst we would very much like to ensure that Christmas events in school go ahead, we are also mindful of the highly contagious nature of the winter vomiting bug and Strep A. We are trying to balance the concern regarding spreading infection to friends and family, and/or vulnerable members of the community with the actuality of bringing 75+ parents/families into school to watch the Nativity performance. We also have a Christmas Carol event scheduled for the junior school on Thursday, although time to practise altogether has been limited, it will still involve families and children mixing but we hope to limit the possibility of infection as this will be outside. In addition, we know that we are running out of time to postpone events for later this week as the timetable in school is already packed with activities on Thursday and Friday.

Rather than make a decision in isolation we would very much like your opinion to help make the right decision for our children and families. Can you please complete the survey here today and we can then finalise a plan taking your views into account for the remainder of the week. MIJS Christmas Events - Have Your Say

Once we have collated all your responses later today, we will then confirm our proposed arrangements back to you. Any arrangements put in place will also be under review and subject to change, based on the number of cases of illness in school, as well as if children have had the opportunity to prepare to perform. Needless to say we will continue to be vigilant with cleaning and hand washing routines to help prevent further outbreaks.

Whilst we remain hopeful to salvage the remainder of our Christmas programme I am sure you will join us in disappointment that our end of term events have not gone as planned, however your childs/ren's health and that of your families is always our priority.

Thank you for your contribution.

Simon Wakeman — Executive Head

Abi Carter — Head of Schools MIJS

Sickness and Diarrhoea

	Thursday 8th December	Friday 9th December	Monday 12th December
MIS	2%	60%	22%
Yr R	0%	42%	19%
Yr 1	3%	72%	14%
Yr 2	0%	67%	39%
MJS	2%	7%	6%
Seacole	4%	11%	11%
Hawking	3%	14%	14%
Yr 5	0%	0%	0%
Yr 6	0%	4%	0%

Strep A (either confirmed or symptomatic)

Common symptoms of strep A include:

- flu-like symptoms, such as a high temperature, swollen glands or an aching body
- sore throat (strep throat or tonsillitis)
- a rash that feels rough, like sandpaper (scarlet fever)
- scabs and sores (impetigo)
- pain and swelling (cellulitis)
- severe muscle aches
- nausea and vomiting

Most strep A infections are not serious and can be treated with antibiotics.

	Thursday 8th December	Friday 9th December	Monday 12th December
MIS			
Confirmed Strep A	0	0	1
Children with 1 or more symptoms	0	1	2
MJS			
Confirmed Strep A	0	0	0
Children with 1 or more symptoms	2	3	1