

Date: 4th January 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As your child returns to school after the festive break, we would like to make you aware that winter infections remain a risk. Flu, COVID-19 and Scarlet Fever are continuing to circulate, and in an early years, childcare or school community these can spread quickly.

Professor Susan Hopkins, the Chief Medical Adviser at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has issued the following advice to help protect your child and others they are in contact with:

- If your child is unwell and has a fever, keep them at home until the fever has passed and they feel better. During this time your child should avoid attending school, nursery or childminder, they should also not have contact with any other person outside the household.
- An adult who is unwell should stay at home and avoid seeing others.
- If a person is unwell and they have to go out, they are advised to avoid attending a healthcare setting, such as a GP surgery or hospital, unless calling first. Also do not attend a high-risk setting such as a care home or nursing home.
- If a person needs to leave the house whilst they are unwell, UKHSA recommends a face covering is worn at all times to help avoid passing their infection to others.
- Good hand hygiene continues to be important to avoid spreading infections through touch. You are asked to encourage your child to regularly wash their hands, with soap and warm water.
- Vaccination is the best protection against any avoidable illness such as Flu or COVID-19. You are advised to ensure your child is vaccinated if eligible.

For more information about getting your child vaccinated against Flu visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/>.

For more information about the Covid-19 vaccination visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/>.

The Public Health Team of North Northants Council is urging you to follow this advice, to help keep your child, their school community and the local population safe.



Dr Annapurna Sen
Public Health Physician - Health Protection Specialist
On behalf of North Northants and West Northants Councils