



South Haringay School
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Wednesday 04 December 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

Re: Norovirus Infection

In the last week, there have been several children at South Haringay Infant School unwell with symptoms of a viral illness. The symptoms the children have are consistent with viral gastroenteritis. Although not confirmed, this is usually caused by Norovirus, a frequent cause of vomiting and diarrhoea in the community during the winter.

The most common symptom is vomiting. Diarrhoea tends to be short-lived and less severe than with other causes of gastroenteritis. Other symptoms include nausea, abdominal cramps, headache, muscle aches, chills, and fever. The illness is usually mild in nature and gets better without antibiotics, which are not appropriate for viral illnesses. Symptoms usually last between one and three days.

Norovirus is infectious and is easily spread from person to person by the faecal-oral route and by vomiting, environmental contamination and subsequent indirect person to person spread.

Exclusion: an affected child or member of staff is advised to stay away from school until 48 hours after the vomiting and/or diarrhoea have stopped. This is an important measure that we have asked the school/nursery to adopt to limit the spread of this infection to others.

We would like to emphasise the need for good hand hygiene and the supervision of this in younger children. Hands should be washed with soap and water after contact with an affected person or environment.

Yours faithfully,

Ian Scotchbrook

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ian Scotchbrook", written in a cursive style.

Headteacher