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Friday 25th November 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has come to our attention through social media, that parents are concerned about the toilets at the Holt Road site following an outbreak of a sickness bug. I am writing to reassure you that our cleaning staff work hard to maintain a good standard of hygiene across the school site, including in the toilet areas but this on its own will not protect the children from contracting such bugs which tend to be prevalent at this time of year.

Every school with young children have incidences of sickness bug outbreaks, and this is because the bug is easily spread. Children can catch it simply by touching contaminated surfaces or objects throughout the school, this is not confined to toilet areas but anywhere an infected child (or adult) has touched during the day. Young children particularly often put their hands near their mouths after touching surfaces and so the bug is easily spread to others. The teachers have taught the children how to wash their hands with soap at school, and we would be really grateful if you could show your children at home too.

Because such bugs are highly contagious, children who have sickness and diarrhoea must remain off school for 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea to stop the spread of the infection to other children and staff. This is the key recommendation from the NHS to avoid the spreading the infection.

We are working to improve the decorative state of the toilets but please be reassured the toilet area was deep cleaned over the summer, the toilets are cleaned thoroughly every day and because of the outbreak of the bug, will be deep cleaned again this weekend. We have changed the toilet roll holders so the toilet roll doesn't break off in the holders anymore, and we have another cleaner starting on Monday at Holt Road, which will help ensure the levels of hygiene remain high. In addition to this, our cleaners thoroughly disinfect all surfaces in school.

I have also attached information and advice from the NHS to limit the spread of the bugs including Novovirus and guidance on how symptoms can be treated which I hope you will find useful.

Yours sincerely

Ashley Best-White
Executive Headteacher