Dear Parents / Carers,

We have been advised by Public Health England (PHE) that there has been a case of Hepatitis A infection in a child who attends the Reception class. I am pleased to tell you that they have made a full recovery and can reassure you that they are no longer infectious, and the infection is believed to have been acquired outside the school.

When a case of hepatitis A occurs in a school child, health specialists carefully consider the possibility of spread between children. Where necessary, they recommend vaccination for the children and staff who share the same class. As a precaution, PHE is recommending that all children in the Reception classes should receive the hepatitis A vaccine

**Your child has not been offered the vaccine as they have been assessed as being at lower risk and do not require the vaccination. However, if your child develops any signs of infection (as described below) then please take your child to their GP with this letter.**

Hepatitis A is caused by a virus that infects the digestive tract (gut). The virus is found in faeces (poo), so without good hygiene, it can spread through contamination of hands on to food or other objects which may be put in the mouth. People who have the infection but do not have any symptoms may still pass their infection to others. **One of the best ways to prevent the spread of hepatitis A is by ensuring that everyone washes their hands thoroughly and regularly, especially after using the toilet or before preparing food.**

We would like to make you aware of the symptoms of hepatitis A infection. **These include loss of appetite, fever, abdominal pain and jaundice (temporary yellowing of the skin and eyes and dark urine)**. Very young children often have no symptoms, but they can pass their infection to older children and adults who may then show signs of hepatitis. Most people make a full recovery from hepatitis A and suffer no long-term problems. However, **if you or anyone in your family develops jaundice or any of these symptoms they should stay off school or work, contact their family doctor for advice and inform the school.**

Further information on Hepatitis A is available at [www.nhs.uk/conditions/Hepatitis-A](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Hepatitis-A)

Yours sincerely,



Samantha Offord

Headteacher