

Wednesday 7th December 2022

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We have been informed that a small number of children who attend our school have been diagnosed with suspected or confirmed scarlet fever. Although scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, it should be treated with antibiotics to minimise the risk of complications and reduce the spread to others.

The symptoms of scarlet fever include:

- Sore throat.
- Headache.
- Fever.
- Nausea and vomiting.
- Within 48 hours, a characteristic pinkish-red, generalised pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture.
- On more darkly-pigmented skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, although the sandpaper feel should be present.
- Patients typically have flushed cheeks and pallor around the mouth.
- This may be accompanied by a 'strawberry tongue'.

If you think you, or your child, have scarlet fever you MUST:

- See your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible.
- Make sure that you/your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor.
- Stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection.

Complications:

Children who have had chickenpox recently are more likely to develop a more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever and so parents should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high fever, cellulitis (skin infection) and arthritis (joint pain and swelling).

If you are concerned for any reason please seek medical assistance immediately. If your child has an underlying condition which affects their immune system, you should contact your GP or hospital doctor to discuss whether any additional measures are needed. You can find more information in the Guidance and Risk Assessment attached.

As with most infectious diseases, handwashing is the main control measure, together with rigorous cleaning of surfaces and common areas.



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If your child is presenting with these symptoms at school, we will call you and ask you to collect them as soon as possible, and ask that you make a GP appointment for further advice.

Our current situation is not classed as an outbreak so school will run as normal. Any confirmed increase in cases will result in contact with the Health Protection Agency, and further guidelines will be issued.

As always, if you do have any questions, please get in touch with me at school.

With best wishes,

Mrs Rowett
Headteacher

