

Scarlett Fever / Strep A & Chickenpox

Dear parent/carers,

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. We also have several children in school currently who have chickenpox.

The symptoms of scarlet fever include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. This is followed by a fine, rash which typically first appears on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body. The face can be flushed red but pale around the mouth.

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

- see your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible
- make sure that you or your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor
- children should be off school for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection

The infection causing scarlet fever (group A streptococcal infection) also causes sore throats (strep throat), mild fever and minor skin infections (for example, impetigo). If you are concerned about the severity of any illness, you should see your GP who can arrange for testing if necessary and then prescribe antibiotics if there is evidence of a group A streptococcal infection.

Children who have had chickenpox recently are more likely to develop more serious infection should they catch scarlet fever and so parents should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high temperature, skin infection and joint pain and swelling. If you are concerned for any reason please seek medical assistance immediately. You can find more information in on scarlet fever symptoms, diagnosis and treatment at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/scarlet-fever-symptoms-diagnosis-treatment>

Further information on chickenpox, including diagrams and do's and don'ts, can be found on the NHS website here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/>

We currently have heightened hand hygiene and cleaning procedures in place in school to support this increase in cases.

Many thanks,



Mr Holmes

Headteacher