

Monday, 28th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been informed of a confirmed case of scarlet fever in school. 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 a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. This is followed by a fine red rash which typically first appears on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body. On more darkly pigmented skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, but it should feel like 'sandpaper'. 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/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.

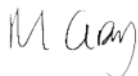
Complications

Children who have had **chickenpox recently** are more likely to develop 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 from the following link: [scarlet fever gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/scarlet-fever).

I have been advised by our Health Protection Practitioner for West Midlands that this is not unusual at this time of year and there is no cause for alarm following just one case. Nonetheless, I feel it important that you are all aware of the need to be vigilant and seek medical advice and antibiotic treatment should your children display symptoms.

Yours sincerely,



Mary Gray
Head of School