



06 December 2022

Dear Parent

You may have seen in the news recently about the increase in cases of [Scarlet Fever](#) and Strep A which are higher than usual this year, particularly in children under the age of 10.

To date we have had no confirmed cases in school but we thought it prudent to share with you some of the signs and symptoms.

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.
- 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 guidance [Scarlet fever: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment](#), and further advice can also be obtained from the GP.

Kind regards

Lindsey Walsh
Head Teacher