

07/03/2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We have been informed that a small number of children in the area have recently been diagnosed with suspected/confirmed Scarlet Fever.

Although Scarlet Fever is usually a mild illness, it should be treated with antibiotics to reduce the risk of complications and spread to others. The symptoms of Scarlet Fever include:

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever
- Nausea
- Vomiting

This is followed by a fine red rash, which typically appears first on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body. On a 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, may have scarlet fever:

- See your GP, or contact NHS Direct 0845 4647, 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

Treatment is straight forward and usually involves a course of penicillin antibiotics.

### **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 help 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.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs CS Armitstead  
Headteacher