



7<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parent / Carers

You will be aware of the increase nationally of notifications of scarlet fever to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), which are currently above seasonal expected levels. I would like to take the opportunity to remind you of the signs, symptoms, and the actions to be taken if your child or family member develop symptoms.

The following information has been shared with us by the UK Health Security Agency; they have also provided us with the attached FAQ sheet.

In short:

- Check you are aware of the symptoms for Scarlet Fever (see below)
- Contact your GP if you suspect your child or family member have symptoms
- Inform school of Scarlet fever, Strep A, Chicken Pox or Flu.
- If receiving antibiotics for Scarlet fever or Strep A, students can return to school 24 hours after the start of these.
- Remind your child to wash their hands regularly and especially after going to the toilet, before and after eating.
- Remind them to cover their mouths and nose with a tissue when they cough and sneeze and wash or sanitise their hands after binning the tissue. **Catch it, Kill it, Bin it.**
- Cover wounds with a plaster.

We have had one student with a possible case of Scarlet Fever (fully recovered and back in school); we will keep you informed if cases increase in school.

This website is helpful:

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2022/12/05/group-a-strep-what-you-need-to-know/>

### Information from the UK Health Security Agency

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

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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.

Thank you as always for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N Raggett  
Headteacher