

11 May 2018

Dear Parents,

We have been informed that a small number of children who attend our school have been diagnosed with suspected / confirmed scarlet fever and chick. We have reported this outbreak to Public Health England, spoken to the local Doctors surgery and discussed and modelled with the children today how to wash hands properly and when to do this. We have also sorted pencils and thrown away any with chewed ends and are planning a thorough clean of the 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.

**If you are pregnant or have a young baby, please make alternative arrangements for drop off and collection of your child/ren at school to avoid coming into contact with anyone who may have the symptoms of Scarlet Fever or Chicken pox. If you suspect that you have a rash yourself, please immediately contact your GP.**

You can find more information in the attached Frequently Asked Questions and further advice can also be obtained from the Health Protection Team on 0344 225 3861 option 2 then option 1 during office hours.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Jefferies  
Headteacher

