

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

We have been informed that a small number of children who attend the school have been diagnosed with suspected scarlet fever.

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 may have scarlet fever:

- See your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible.
- Ensure that you / your child take 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

We also have a reported case of chicken pox in school. 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.

### Sickness and diarrhoea

If your child has experienced symptoms of sickness and diarrhoea they need to remain off school until 48 hours from their last episode.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Leese

**PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT BEHAVIOUR & WELFARE LEADER**