

Learning and Caring Together,  
“...they will flourish in the courts of our God.” (Psalm 92:13)

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

**The following advice is from the UKHSA (UK Health Security Agency) who we have consulted with in regards to a case of scarlet fever and chickenpox.**

**Scarlet fever/ Group A Strep / Strep A infection.**

These infections are all caused by the same bacteria and usually cause just a mild illness. Infections should be treated with antibiotics to minimise the risk of complications and reduce the spread to others within our community.

The symptoms of scarlet fever/ Group A Strep / Strep A infection to look out for may include:

**Typical Scarlet Fever symptoms:**

- sore throat,
- headache,
- fever,
- face may be flushed red but paler around the mouth
- nausea and vomiting,
- patients may have a bright red ‘strawberry’ tongue.
- fine rash that will feel “like sandpaper”. The rash usually appears first on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreads to other parts of the body. On white skin the rash looks pink or red. On brown and black skin it might be hard to see a change in colour, but you can still feel the sandpaper-like texture of the rash and see the raised bumps.

**Other symptoms of Group A Strep / Strep A:**

The infection can also cause symptoms, not of Scarlet Fever but of:

- sore throats (strep throat),
- mild fever and minor skin infections (e.g. impetigo).

If you think you or your child, have scarlet fever/ Group A Strep / Strep A infection:

- contact your GP or NHS 111 as soon as possible, referring to this letter

- 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 until any fever has subsided and **for at least 24 hours** after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection
- if impetigo is diagnosed, then stay away **for at least 48 hours** after starting the 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 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 for helping us to keep our school community safe and well.

Kind regards

Mrs Leese

## **Useful further reading. Click on these links:**

**Should I keep my child off school/nursery** [Should I keep my child off school checklist poster \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Sore throat (strep throat or [tonsillitis](#))

Scarlet fever ([scarlet fever](#))

Scabs and sores ([impetigo](#))

Pain and swelling ([cellulitis](#))

Group A Strep [Strep A - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

Chicken pox [Chickenpox - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#).

Cold and flu-like illness, including COVID-19 [Respiratory tract infections \(RTIs\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

