



6th December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may know, cases of Strep A infections such as scarlet fever/strep throat have been reported in many schools up and down the country. We ask that you please read the following guidance and keep your child at home if you suspect they have scarlet fever/strep throat.

We will continue to encourage regular hand washing within school, particularly around lunchtime, snack times and toileting along with reminding children to 'Catch It, Bin It, Kill it' to promote good respiratory and hand hygiene.

What is Scarlet Fever?

Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, but it is highly infectious. Scarlet fever is caused by bacteria called group A streptococci. These bacteria also cause other respiratory and skin infections such as strep throat and impetigo. (UKHSA's website.)

Therefore, look out for symptoms in your child, which include a sore throat, headache, and fever, along with a fine, pinkish, or red body rash with a sandpapery feel. Contact NHS 111 or your GP if you suspect your child has scarlet fever. Early treatment of scarlet fever with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications such as pneumonia or a bloodstream infection. If your child has scarlet fever, keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

Strep A throat, what to look for?

With strep, the sore throat comes on quickly and is more likely to cause these other symptoms as well:

- A fever
- Red, swollen tonsils
- Pain when you swallow
- Swollen and/or tender lymph nodes at the front of your neck
- White patches in the throat
- Tiny red spots on the roof of the mouth (called petechiae)
- Appetite loss
- Stomachache
- Headache



- Body aches
- Nausea, vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Rash

Please find below the latest update from UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) regarding Strep A infections.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-update-on-scarlet-fever-and-invasive-group-a-strep>

When to seek medical advice?

See your GP as soon as possible if you think you or your child has scarlet fever/strep throat.

If you choose not to administer the treatment given by your GP your child is required to remain absent from school for 3 weeks. Please see the NHS website for further information: -

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Scarlet-fever/Pages/Symptoms.aspx>

If you need any help or advice, then please contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,

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Executive Headteacher

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Head of School