



14th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wrote to you on 5th December 2022 to inform you of 'higher than usual' levels of Scarlet Fever and Strep A throat. Please feel reassured that we are continuing to monitor levels at school, and we have no confirmed cases. We are ensuring that all children follow good hygiene practices of frequent hand washing and using the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' procedure.

We want to ensure that all parents are informed of signs and symptoms of Scarlet Fever and Strep A throat. Please see information below.

What is Scarlet Fever?

Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, but it is highly infectious. 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. On darker skin, the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel. Contact NHS 111 or your GP if you suspect your child has scarlet fever, because 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.

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.)

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>

Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's [skin, tongue or lips are blue](#)
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

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

Yours sincerely,

Kirsty Hutchinson
Executive Headteacher

Leanne Ruddock
Head of School