



Re: PS/NP 01/12/2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

### Scarlet Fever

We have been informed that a member of staff and a child who attends school have been diagnosed with confirmed 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, 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. You can find more information in the guidance below

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>



#### Scarlet fever - NHS

Things you can do yourself. You can relieve symptoms of scarlet fever by: drinking cool fluids; eating soft foods if you have a sore throat; taking painkillers like paracetamol to bring down a high temperature (do not give aspirin to children under 16)  
[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

A reminder to please leave a message on the school ansphone if your child is unwell with brief details of symptoms or illness.

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs Pollitt

Deputy Head

National Support School  
designated by



National College for  
Teaching & Leadership

