

### **Advice for Parents and Carers**

Due to the recent publicity around Scarlet fever and invasive strep A, we would like to advise you to be extra vigilant if your child becomes unwell and to seek medical advice if you are concerned. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has reported that scarlet fever cases are higher than we would typically see at this time of year. Scarlet fever is caused by bacteria called group A streptococci. This bacteria also causes other respiratory and skin infections such as strep throat and impetigo (a skin infection)

In the first instance, please follow this link to the [Symptoms of scarlet fever](#)

Scarlet fever is a contagious bacterial infection that mostly affects young children. It is easily treated with antibiotics. The first signs of scarlet fever can be flu-like symptoms, including high temperature, a sore throat and swollen neck glands (a large lump on the side of your neck).

A rash appears 12 to 48 hours later. It looks like small, raised bumps and starts on the chest and tummy, then spreads. The rash makes your skin feel rough, like sandpaper. On white skin, the rash looks pink or red. It may be harder to see on brown and black skin, but you can still feel it. A white coating also appears on the tongue. This peels, leaving the tongue red, swollen and covered in little bumps (called “strawberry tongue”). The rash does not appear on the face, but the cheeks can look red. The redness may be harder to see on brown and black skin.

Contact a GP if your child:

- Has scarlet fever symptoms
- Has scarlet fever and chickenpox at the same time
- Is ill again, weeks after scarlet fever got better – this can be a sign of a complication, such as rheumatic fever
- Is feeling unwell and has been in contact with someone who has scarlet fever
- Scarlet fever is very easily spread. Please check with school Matron if you require further advice.

**If your child has been diagnosed with Scarlet fever they can return to school 24 hours after starting their antibiotic treatment and providing your child is well enough in themselves and with a normal body temperature.**

**Please do not hesitate to seek urgent medical advice 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

Please contact Mrs Cathie Stone, School Matron if you require further assistance.