



5th December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Rise in cases of Scarlet Fever

You may have seen in the news over the last week that there has been a rise in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever (Strep A) among young children across the UK.

Cases of Scarlet Fever happen every year and in most instances it is a mild illness that should be treated with antibiotics. However, in rare incidences it can be severe if not treated. There have been a small number of recent cases where children have died from the illness.

While there is no need to panic or be unduly concerned, after talking to public health representatives, we are asking all parents to remain vigilant, look out for symptoms and see your GP if your child develops any symptoms.

The symptoms of Scarlet Fever include:

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever
- Nausea
- 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 also be flushed red but pale around the mouth.

A small number of children at Ely College/Bishop Laney 6th Form have been diagnosed with the illness and are being treated by their GP.

Please note that a similar letter, with slightly different wording, has also been sent to parents at The Lantern Primary School this afternoon.

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, 6th Form 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 have any concerns or worries, please contact your GP or NHS 111.

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.

We have also attached the NHS Factsheet about Scarlet Fever (Strep A) for your information.

If you do have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your GP or NHS 111.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Warburton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simon Warburton
Principal

Enc