



6th December 2022

Dear Families,

Scarlet Fever:

You may have seen information about this in the news or on social media. We wanted to give you some official and very helpful information that was shared with us from Public Health.

**Scarlet Fever and Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS):** 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 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. If no antibiotics have been administered, the individual will be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks.

**Symptoms and Responding to Cases:** Symptoms of Scarlet Fever can be found on the NHS website. It could be useful to share these symptoms with families and reinforce that children should stay at home if they have a temperature or are feeling unwell.

**Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:**

- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38°C, or is older than 3 months and is getting worse
- temperature of 39°C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable

**continued overleaf**

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**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

Good hand and respiratory hygiene are important for stopping the spread of many bugs. By teaching your child how to wash their hands properly with soap for 20 seconds, using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, and keeping away from others when feeling unwell, they will be able to reduce the risk of picking up or spreading infections.

Yours faithfully

Mrs White  
Head of School

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