



7th December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Keeping you in the picture – Scarlet Fever & Group A Streptococcal Infections

You will have heard in the press recently about concerns concerning Scarlet Fever and related conditions that could impact on your children's health.

We have today received information that relates to the national picture which we have been asked to share with you by the UK Health Security Agency. You will find this information in the attached letter.

In sharing this with you, we are keen to raise your awareness and understanding, not cause undue levels of concern. With this in mind we would want you to know that we have not been informed of confirmed cases relating to children and school. In saying this we also recognise that levels of illness is high, which is typical for this time of year.

As you see from the attached letter, Scarlet Fever is not usually serious but should be treated with antibiotics to reduce the risk of complications and spread to others. The early symptoms include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting – after 12-48 hours the characteristic rash develops on chest and stomach then rapidly spreads to the other parts of the body, giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture.

The letter goes on to explain what you should do if your child has scarlet fever, including contacting your GP or NHS 111, making sure your child takes any antibiotics prescribed and keeping them off school for at least 24 hours after antibiotics have been started.

The letter also explains in more detail about Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS) and highlights how rare it is for children with scarlet fever to develop iGAS infection. It highlights symptoms of the infection and action that should be taken.

We would invite you to read the attached letter for more details – given the amount of information being shared it may be worth keeping this somewhere safe. Being able to refer to the letter should your child have any ill health will enable you to feel more reassured or take any action necessary. Remember that you know your child and their health patterns best – trust your judgement and should you have concerns seek help.

You know where we are if you would like to talk anything through in relation to your child's health, but remember that your GP and NHS 111 are there for you to share any particular medical concerns that you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Hampton
Acting Head Teacher