



**'All Moving Forward  
Together'**

11 May 2022

Dear parents and carers

For transparency, I am writing to inform you that we have received confirmation that members of our school community have scarlet fever and your child may have been exposed.

I would like to reassure you that our school is very careful to make sure everyone follows the latest government and public health guidance for the management of specific infectious diseases.

**What is scarlet fever?**

Scarlet fever is a contagious infection which presents as a red rash and high temperature caused by bacteria (Group A streptococci). It tends to affect young children mainly. Prompt treatment with antibiotics usually prevents any complications. Treatment will also prevent further spread to others.

**What are the symptoms of scarlet fever?**

A red rash over the body that is often most obvious in the creases of the joints and over the chest and stomach. It usually appears white when pressed. The skin may feel rough to the touch, sometimes described as feeling like sandpaper. Someone with scarlet fever will also likely have a sore throat and swollen neck glands.

**What should I do if I think my child has it?**

If your child develops any of these symptoms please contact your GP and let them know that another child in the school has scarlet fever.

**If my child has scarlet fever what should I do?**

A GP will prescribe an antibiotic for your child. It is important that your child takes the full course of medicine.

**Can my child stay in school?**

Your child can return to school when they are well and have finished one full day (24 hours) of antibiotic treatment.

**What can I do to prevent the spread of infection at home?**

The bacteria are spread through contact with nose and mouth secretions so:

- Wash hands thoroughly after wiping your nose.
- Wash hands thoroughly before preparing food.
- Wash dishes well in hot soapy water.
- Do not share cups, straws, spoons, eating utensils etc.
- Do not share toothbrushes, clothing, bedding, towels or baths.

**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.

Thank you for giving this your attention. Your GP will be able to answer any further questions that you might have about scarlet fever or can also visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

The health, safety and wellbeing of our children and staff is extremely important to us and we thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sam Woolhouse  
Headteacher



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OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

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