

9th December 2022



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Dear Parent/Carer

Advice Regarding Scarlet Fever

We have been informed that a small number of students who attend our school have been diagnosed with suspected or confirmed scarlet fever. We have been advised by the UK Health Protection Agency (formerly Public Health England) and the Public Health Department at the Local Authority to send this letter for your information.

Although scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, it should be treated with antibiotics to minimise the risk of complications and reduce the spread to others. The symptoms of scarlet fever include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and 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 be flushed red but pale around the mouth.

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 school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection

Complications and Co-circulation

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.

Additional Information

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. Impetigo is a skin infection that can be caused by the same bacteria that causes scarlet fever. Impetigo **starts as a red, itchy sore**. As it heals, a crusty, yellow or "honey-coloured" scab forms over the sore. In general, impetigo is a mild infection that can occur anywhere on the body. It most often affects exposed skin, such as around the nose and mouth. If a child has suspected impetigo, you should seek medical attention. You can find more information at: https://www.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health#news_and_communications

Please let us know if you need support with any of the information in this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Hart
Head of School



Head of School: Liz Hart
CEO, Beckfoot Trust: Shirley Watson
Chair of Academy Trustees: John Winkley

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