

13 December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

We have a small number of children who have been diagnosed with confirmed scarlet fever.

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, has scarlet fever:

- See your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible
- Please contact [attendance@sdrive.org](mailto:attendance@sdrive.org) and let us know any suspected/confirmed cases
- Make sure that you/your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor
- **Stay at home for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection**
- If it is not treated with antibiotics, it can be infectious for two to three weeks after the symptoms appear

**Please be aware**

Children who have had chickenpox recently are more likely to develop a more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever and so parents/carers 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. 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.

You can find more information in the guidance [Scarlet fever](#) symptoms, diagnosis and treatment, and further advice can also be obtained from the Health Protection Team on 0300 303 8162 during office hours.

Yours sincerely,



Justin Humphreys  
**Headteacher**