

# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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Dear Parent/Carer

We have been advised that a small number of children in nursery/school 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 to reduce the spread to others.

## Symptoms

The first symptoms of scarlet fever often include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours the characteristic fine red rash develops (if you touch it, it feels like sandpaper). Typically, it first appears on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body. On more darkly-pigmented skin, the rash may be harder to spot, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present

## Further symptoms include:

- fever over 38.3° C (101° F) or higher is common
- white coating on the tongue which peels a few days later, leaving the tongue looking red and swollen (known as 'strawberry tongue')
- swollen glands in the neck
- feeling tired and unwell
- flushed red face, but pale around the mouth. The flushed face may appear more 'sunburnt' on darker skin
- peeling skin on the fingertips, toes and groin area, as the rash fades

## If you think you or your child has Scarlet Fever

- see your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible
- make sure that your child takes the full course of antibiotics prescribed by the doctor
- stay at home, away from nursery, school, work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection

## Complications

Children who have had Chickenpox are more likely to develop more serious infection during an outbreak of Scarlet Fever and so parents/carers should remain vigilant for symptoms such as persistent high fever, skin or soft tissue infection (cellulitis), joint inflammation (arthritis).



We have been in close contact with the Health Protection Agency to seek advice and this letter is to advise parents/carers to be vigilant and to get your child checked by the GP if they have any symptoms.

If you would like more information about scarlet fever, please visit the [NHS.UK website](https://www.nhs.uk).

If you have any concerns about your health see your GP or contact NHS 111.

A reminder that Public Health England (PHE) issue advice on when children need to stay at home. The advice from PHE is to check their website when a child becomes ill to get the most up to date information as to whether they need to stay at home. If your child becomes unwell and you are unsure as to whether they should stay at home please visit the PHE website and read the Exclusions Table <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Fraser  
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