



08/12/2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Scarlet Fever / Strep A

You will be aware from news headlines that, as well as more typical winter infections, there is an increase nationally in scarlet fever and Group A Streptococcus infection (often referred to as Strep A). Whilst we are not aware of any local outbreak, it is important that we work together with parents to ensure all preventative measures are taken to protect children.

What are scarlet fever and Strep A?

Scarlet fever is caused by bacteria called Group A streptococci (Strep A). The bacteria usually cause a mild infection that can be easily treated with antibiotics. Very rare occasionally, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A strep (iGAS).

What are the symptoms of Strep A/scarlet fever?

Strep A infections can cause a range of symptoms that parents should be aware of, including:

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever
- A fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel
- On darker skin the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel.

If your child becomes unwell with these symptoms, please contact your GP practice or contact NHS 111 (which operates a 24/7 service) to seek advice.

If your child has scarlet fever, it is advised they stay at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.



How to help prevent Strep A?

To prevent the spread of Strep A, the most important measure we can all take is to ensure good hand and respiratory hygiene practices at home and in school to reduce transmissions. For more information visit the UKHSA website or the Education Hub.

In order for us to support local infection control and monitoring, I ask that you inform the school of any suspected or confirmed cases of scarlet fever or Strep A related to your child(ren) as soon as you become aware.

As always, I am grateful for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

M. McGarry
Headteacher