



St Anthony's Catholic Primary School

A Voluntary Academy



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Dear Parents/Carers

Scarlet Fever (Public Health Guidance)

We have been informed that a small number of children (two) who attend nursery and reception have been diagnosed with 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, 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 nursery, school or work for **at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment**, to avoid spreading the infection.

Once your child has taken the antibiotics for 24 hours and feels well enough to return to school, they will be welcomed back and given their medication by a member of staff (please complete a permission form from the school office, to allow our staff to administer your child's medication).

Complications

Children who have had **chickenpox** recently are more likely to develop a more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever and so parents and 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 **Frequently Asked Questions** (available on the school website), and further advice can also be obtained from the Health Protection Team on 0344 225 0562 during office hours.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C P Fox
Headteacher