

Thursday 8th December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Group A Streptococcal/Scarlet Fever

Following on from our recent letter making you aware of the Strep A/Scarlet Fever symptoms, we would like to inform you that we have had our first couple of confirmed cases in school.

We know there has been a recent increase in the number of Scarlet Fever cases nationally, but please do not worry. We have spoken to Public Health England, who have told us that Scarlet Fever is a common childhood infection and that for most children this can be easily treated. The same bacteria that causes Scarlet Fever can cause a range of other types of infections such as skin infections (impetigo) and a sore throat. In very rare cases it can cause Strep A. Scarlet fever is not usually serious, but should be treated with antibiotics to reduce the risk of complications.

Signs and Symptoms

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever over 38.3 or higher is common
- Nausea and vomiting
- After 12 – 48 hours a rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach then spreading to other parts of the body and giving the skin a sandpaper like texture. The scarlet rash maybe harder to spot on darker skin, although the 'sand paper' feel should be present.
- Patients typically have flushed skin and be pale around the mouth
- May have a bright red tongue

If you think, your child might have scarlet fever:

- Contact you GP or call 111
- Stay at home, away from nursery, school, for at least 24hours after starting the antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection

Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you have any further questions.

Kind Regards

S D'Ogullari

Ms S D'Ogullari
Lead Medical Officer
North Star Community Trust