



19th January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

SCARLET FEVER CASES

We need to inform you that we have two cases of Scarlet Fever in the school.

If you are unsure of the symptoms we have attached an information sheet from the NHS website. This contains pictures as well as descriptions of symptoms.

If you suspect your child may have signs of Scarlet Fever the advice is to see your GP as soon as possible. Antibiotic treatment may be necessary to reduce the time your child is contagious and speed their recovery.

If the GP prescribes antibiotics children can return to school, **once feeling well enough**, after 24hrs of the treatment.

Please be vigilant in checking your child and contact your surgery if you are unsure whether or not your child may have contracted Scarlet Fever.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Dawes', enclosed in a large, loopy oval shape.

M Dawes (Mrs)
Office Administrator



Symptoms of scarlet fever develop within a week of being infected.

Early signs include a sore throat, a headache, a high temperature (38.3C/101F or above), swollen glands in the neck and being sick.

This may be followed by a rash on the body, a red face and a white or red tongue:

Rash



The scarlet fever rash:

usually starts on the chest or tummy, before spreading to other areas

is made up of pink-red blotches that may join up

feels like sandpaper (this may be the most obvious sign in someone with dark skin)

may be brightest red in body folds, such as the armpits or elbows

turns white if you press a glass on it

Red face



The rash doesn't usually spread to the face, but the cheeks may turn very red. This may look a bit like sunburn.

The area around the mouth usually stays pale.

White or red tongue



Sometimes a white coating may form on the tongue.

This peels away after a few days, leaving the tongue red and swollen.

This is known as a "strawberry tongue".

When to see your GP

See your GP or call NHS 111 as soon as possible if:

you think your child has scarlet fever

you have symptoms of scarlet fever

you or your child have been treated for scarlet fever but the symptoms haven't improved after a week or are getting worse

Treatment with antibiotics is recommended to reduce the length of time the infection is contagious, speed up recovery and reduce the risk of any further problems.