

7th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We can appreciate that parents may be concerned by the current news and information being raised regarding scarlet fever, also being referred to as Strep A. We are writing to share the current guidance that has been shared with the school.

Public Health England have issued a factsheet: [Scarlet Fever - Frequently Asked Questions](#)

You can see specific advice on symptoms, diagnosis and treatment here: [Scarlet Fever: 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 can 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

It usually takes 2 to 5 days from infection before the first symptoms appear. However, the incubation period may be as short as 1 day and as long as 7 days.

Scarlet fever usually clears up after a week, but it is advisable to visit your GP to get a full diagnosis and proper treatment.

The advice is that anyone with symptoms should seek an immediate consultation with a GP and stay away from school. If the GP thinks it is scarlet fever they will prescribe appropriate antibiotics. **The individual will only need to be away from school for 24 hours after starting the antibiotic** (or until fully recovered if not accepting antibiotics).

Aspiration  
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We appreciate that this is worrying for parents but the advice is just to be vigilant and take your child to doctor if they show symptoms as above. Please inform the school should your child be diagnosed. We need this information to follow the government guidelines to protect everyone in the school community. We will need to respond appropriately, should there be an outbreak in our student community. As a school we value attendance and so we want to ensure you have all the facts.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Jenner  
**Headteacher**

