



15th January 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

A couple of students in our school have been diagnosed as having scarlet fever. This is a contagious infection that mostly affects young children and is easily treated with antibiotics.

The first signs of scarlet fever can be flu-like symptoms, including a high temperature of 38C or above, a sore throat and swollen neck glands. A rash appears a few days later, usually starting on the chest and tummy which feels like sandpaper. A white coating can also appear on the tongue - this peels leaving it red and swollen ("strawberry tongue").

Please see your GP if you or your child:

- have scarlet fever symptoms
- do not get better in a week (after seeing GP), especially if your child has recently had chickenpox
- are ill again weeks after scarlet fever has cleared up – this can be a sign of a complication, such as rheumatic fever
- are feeling unwell and have been in contact with someone who has scarlet fever

Scarlet fever lasts for around a week. You're infectious up to 7 days before the symptoms start until 24 hours after you take the first antibiotics. Therefore, students must remain at home for 24 hours after starting antibiotics. People who do not take antibiotics can be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks after symptoms start.

If you, a family member or a friend are pregnant and exposed to a child with scarlet fever, there is no evidence to suggest that getting scarlet fever will harm the unborn baby.

Please contact your GP if you have any further questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely

Colette Culross

Colette Culross
Attendance Officer & Medical Officer