



ST LUKE'S C OF E  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Work Together - Grow Together - Flourish Together*

*"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed...Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches".*

*Matthew 13:31-32*

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2025

Dear Parents/carers,

**Re: Scarlet Fever**

We have been informed of three confirmed case of 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.

Scarlet fever is mainly a childhood disease, with around 90% of cases occurring in children under 10 years old. It is most common in children between the ages of 2 and 8 years, with 4 year olds most likely to develop the illness. Occasionally, outbreaks of scarlet fever can occur in schools. People of all ages can also catch scarlet fever, but the disease is much less common in adults.

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 school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection.

**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 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 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever> and further advice can also be obtained from the UK Health Protection Team on 0300 303 8162 during office hours.

Should you become aware of any other cases, please do not hesitate to contact the school office immediately.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Phillips  
Head Teacher

