

Northwick Park Primary and Nursery Academy

Company No. 9154404

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Headteacher: Emma Lane

7th December 2017

Dear Parents,

Scarlet Fever

2 copies of suspected scarlet fever have been reported to the school. 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.

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 take the full course of antibiotics prescribed by the doctor.
- Stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for **at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection.**

Scarlet fever does not present an increased risk to pregnant women or their unborn babies. There is no need to take any extra precautions if you are pregnant and have been in contact with a case of Scarlet Fever.

Complications from co-infection with Chicken Pox

Children who have had Chicken Pox recently are more likely to develop 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. If you are concerned for any reason, please seek medical assistance immediately.

If you are aware that Chicken Pox is also circulating at your child's school or nursery then please be extra vigilant for the symptoms of scarlet fever and chicken pox.

Chicken Pox is a mild and common childhood illness that most children catch at some point. It causes a rash of red, itchy spots that turn into fluid-filled blisters. They can crust over to form scabs, which eventually drop off. To prevent spreading the infection, keep children off nursery or school until five days after the date of rash onset, by which point most of the spots should have crusted over.

For most children, chickenpox is a mild illness that get better on its own. But some children can become more seriously ill and need to see a doctor. Contact your GP straight away if your child develops any abnormal symptoms, for example:

- If the blisters on their skin become infected
- If your child has a pain in their chest or has difficulty breathing.

You can find more information on Chicken Pox and Scarlet Fever on **NHS choices: www.nhs.uk**.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Miss S Gould
Deputy Headteacher