



# All Saints CE Primary School & Nursery

*Nurturing, Resilience and Achievement for all!*

Headteacher: Mr Philip Asher, BMus(Hons), PGCE, ARCO, NPSQL, MCCT

Friday, 23 April 2021

## Information Leaflet about Scarlet Fever

The information in this letter has been taken from the NHS Choices website.

Please have a look at the NHS website where you will find further information – [Scarlet fever - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

We have had two confirmed cases of Scarlet Fever in separate classes. At present, this is not classed as an 'outbreak', and there is no need to be overly worried or concerned.

Many of the already existing covid-19 measures we have in place (increased hand washing, sanitising, enhanced surface cleaning, bubble systems) will help to ensure this doesn't spread, but as with all things it is important to remain vigilant. This letter is to help make sure you are able to spot any signs/symptoms early to prevent a greater risk of spread of Scarlet Fever in our school and community.

Please have a look at the following information so that you can be aware of what to look out for with your child. Scarlet fever is a bacterial illness that mainly affects children. It causes a distinctive pink-red rash.

**It's important to be aware of the signs and symptoms of scarlet fever so that early treatment with antibiotics can be given.**

**Scarlet fever symptoms** - Initial symptoms usually include a sore throat, headache and a high temperature (38°C/101°F or above), flushed cheeks and a swollen tongue.

A day or two later the characteristic pinkish rash appears. It usually occurs on the chest and stomach before spreading to other areas of the body, such as the ears and neck. The rash feels like sandpaper to touch and it may be itchy. On darker skin the rash may be more difficult to see although its rough texture should be apparent.

The symptoms of scarlet fever usually develop two to five days after infection, although the incubation period (the period between exposure to the infection and symptoms appearing) can be as short as one day or as long as seven days.

**When to seek medical advice** - Scarlet fever usually clears up after about a week, but if you think you or your child may have it, see your GP for a proper diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

Your GP should be able to diagnose scarlet fever by examining the distinctive rash and asking about other symptoms.

There's no evidence to suggest that catching scarlet fever when pregnant will put your baby at risk. However, if you're heavily pregnant, tell the doctors and midwives in charge of your care if you've been in contact with someone who has scarlet fever.

**Who's affected by scarlet fever** - Most cases (about 80%) of scarlet fever occur in children under 10 (usually between two and eight years of age). However, people of any age can get the illness.

As it's highly contagious, scarlet fever is likely to affect someone in close contact with a person with a sore throat or skin infection caused by streptococcus bacteria.

Children and adults should cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when they cough or sneeze and wash their hands with soap and water after using or disposing of tissues. Avoid sharing contaminated utensils, cups and glasses, clothes, baths, bed linen or towels.

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The symptoms of scarlet fever will only develop in people susceptible to toxins produced by the streptococcus bacteria. Most children over 10 years of age will have developed immunity to these toxins.

**Treating scarlet fever** - Scarlet fever used to be a very serious illness, but nowadays most cases tend to be mild. It can easily be treated with antibiotics such as penicillin or amoxicillin.

**Staying off school** - It's very important to be aware that your child will still be infectious for 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has begun, and therefore they mustn't attend nursery or school during this period. Without antibiotic treatment, your child will be infectious for 1-2 weeks after symptoms appear and must not return to school until the fever has gone.

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