



Shirley Junior School

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26th January 2018

Scarlet Fever Warning

Dear Parents/Carers,

We'd like to make you aware that Scarlet Fever has been reported in the Infant school.

Scarlet fever is a bacterial illness that causes a distinctive pink-red rash. It is uncommon in the UK nowadays and is usually mild.

The characteristic symptom of scarlet fever is a widespread, fine pink-red rash that feels like sandpaper to touch. It may start in one area, but soon spreads to many parts of the body, such as the ears, neck and chest. The rash may be itchy. Other symptoms include a high temperature, a flushed face and a red, swollen tongue. Symptoms of scarlet fever usually develop two to five days after infection, although you will be contagious before showing signs of the illness.

See your GP as soon as possible if you suspect you or your child has scarlet fever. Your GP can usually diagnose scarlet fever by looking at the characteristic rash and other symptoms, although a sample of saliva will need to be taken from the back of the throat (throat swab) and tested in a laboratory to confirm the diagnosis. There's no evidence that catching scarlet fever when pregnant will put your baby at risk. However, heavily pregnant women should tell healthcare staff if they have been in contact with someone who has scarlet fever.

If your child has scarlet fever, do not let them go to school and keep them away from other people until they have been on a course of antibiotics for at least 24 hours. PLEASE ENSURE THE SCHOOL IS INFORMED OF ANY CASES OF SCARLET FEVER.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

Annette Hixon
Head of School

**Executive Headteacher: Mrs. H Hayter BEd, NPQH Head of School: Mrs. A Hixon BEd Hons
Head of Teaching & Learning: Mr. R O'Hearn BA Hons**



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