



8 May 2018

Dear parent / guardian,

**Re: Scarlet fever**

We have been informed that a small number of children who attend South Hetton Nursery and Primary School have been diagnosed with suspected 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.

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

Children who have had **chickenpox** recently may develop complications if they also catch scarlet fever. Parents should remain vigilant for symptoms in children who have had chickenpox such as:

- a persistent high fever
- the skin around chickenpox blisters becoming red, hot or painful (signs of infection)
- joint pain and swelling
- your child's symptoms do not improve or are getting worse.

If you are concerned about the symptoms above please seek medical assistance promptly. 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 [www.nhs.uk/conditions/Scarlet-fever/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Scarlet-fever/) and further advice can also be obtained from the Health Protection Team on 0300 303 8596 option 1, during office hours.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deborah Wilson'.

Dr Deborah Wilson  
Consultant in Health Protection