



**Head of School**  
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**Executive Head**  
Mrs Rachel Shaw

14 January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Just a note to let you know that we have had a child diagnosed with scarlet fever. Modern outbreaks of scarlet fever tend to be mild and it is easily treated with antibiotics. However, it is contagious and we felt it only wise for you to be aware of some of the symptoms - unfortunately, like most illnesses many of the early symptoms could also be a common cold!

The following information is taken from the NHS.uk website.

*The symptoms of scarlet fever usually take 2 to 5 days to appear after infection. However the incubation period can be as short as one day or as long as seven days.*

*The symptoms of scarlet fever include a sore throat, headache, high temperature (38.3C/101F) or above, flushed face and swollen tongue. The distinctive pink-red rash develops 12 to 48 hours later.*

*Red blotches are the first sign of the rash. These turn into a fine pink-red rash that feels like sandpaper to touch and looks like sunburn. It may also be itchy.*

*The rash usually starts on the chest and stomach, but soon spreads to other parts of the body, such as the ears, neck, chest, elbows, inner thighs and groin.*

*The rash doesn't usually spread to the face. However, the cheeks become flushed and the area just around the mouth stays quite pale. The rash will turn white if you press a glass on it.*

*The rash usually fades after about a week, but the outer layers of skin, usually on the hands and feet, may peel for several weeks afterwards.*

*In milder cases, sometimes called scarlatina, the rash may be the only symptom.*

*Other symptoms may include:*

- Swollen neck glands,
- loss of appetite,
- nausea and/or vomiting,
- red lines in the folds of the body, such as the armpit, which may last a couple of days after the rash has gone,
- a white coating on the tongue, which peels a few days later leaving the tongue red and swollen (this is known as strawberry tongue),
- a general feeling of being unwell.

As with all illnesses, if you are worried then please do pop your child to the GP.

Yours sincerely

**Des Stokes**  
**Head of School**