



ST ANNE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wellington Road
Nantwich
Cheshire
CW5 7DA

Headteacher

Mrs H M
Brown

Tel : 01270 685353

Dear Parents / Carers

19th March 2018

Re Scarlet Fever

I am writing to inform you we have been notified of a case of scarlet fever in KS1

Signs and symptoms of scarlet fever

Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by group A streptococcus. The early symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours a characteristic red pinhead rash develops, typically appearing first on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. On more darkly pigmented skin the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present. Children typically have flushed cheeks and pallor around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a 'strawberry tongue'. As the child improves, peeling of the skin can occur.

Infection control advice

In schools and nurseries the infection can be spread through direct physical contact and shared contact with surfaces such as table tops, taps, toys and handles.

As per national *Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Child Care Settings*, children and adults with suspected scarlet fever should be **excluded** from nursery / school / work for **24 hours** after the commencement of appropriate antibiotic treatment. Good hygiene practice such as hand washing remains the most important step in preventing and controlling the spread of infection.

We have been asked to advise parents with suspected scarlet fever cases to seek medical advice from their GPs and to report back to the school. This is in order to distinguish scarlet fever from other viral infections with similar symptoms.

Yours faithfully

Mr H Brown
Headteacher