

Deansfield Primary School

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Head Teacher: Clara Daly
Acting Deputy Head: Karen Baldwin



HP Zone Ref. 399067

9th December 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

We have been informed that a number of children who attend Deansfield Primary School have been diagnosed with suspected scarlet fever.

We have contacted our local Health Protection team, who have provided us with the following advice to share with you.

- The symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. This is followed by a fine red skin rash which typically first appears on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body. The face can be flushed red, but pale around the mouth. On darker skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, but it should feel like 'sandpaper'.
- Scarlet fever is treated with a course of antibiotics to minimise the risk of complications and reduce the spread to others.

If you think your child has scarlet fever, then please:

- See your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible. It is also preferable that a throat swab is taken to confirm the diagnosis.
- Make sure that your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor/healthcare professional.
- Anyone with symptoms suggestive of scarlet fever should stay at home, away from school for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection.

If your child has had chickenpox infection recently, then please remain vigilant for additional symptoms such as a persistent high fever, skin infections and swollen, painful joints. **If you are concerned for any reason, then please seek medical assistance immediately.**

If your child has an underlying condition which affects their immune system, then you should contact your GP or hospital doctor to discuss whether any additional measures are needed.

Further information on scarlet fever is also available via NHS Choices [Scarlet fever - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk). A recent blog regarding Group A Strep can also be found here [Group A Strep - What you need to know - UK Health Security Agency \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Clara Daly
Headteacher