



# Radley CE Primary School & Foundation Stage Unit

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Dear Parents,

We have been informed of a child who attends the nursery class of Radley Primary School who has been diagnosed with confirmed **scarlet fever**. Scarlet fever is highly infectious and caused by a bacteria called **group A streptococci**. These bacteria also cause other respiratory and skin infections such as Strep throat and impetigo. In very rare occasions, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A Strep. Whilst uncommon, there has been an increase in the number of cases this year, particularly in children under 10.

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

## Complications

Children who have had chickenpox recently are more likely to develop more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever and so parents should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high fever, cellulitis (skin infection) and arthritis (joint pain and swelling). If you are concerned for any reason please seek medical assistance immediately.

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 in the guidance *Scarlet fever: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment*, and further advice can also be obtained from the Health Protection Team on 0344 225 3861 during office hours.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Thomas  
Headteacher