

Cottingham Church of England Primary School

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Tuesday 18th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Scarlet Fever

Unfortunately, a pupil within the EYFS/KS1 provision was recently diagnosed with having scarlet fever. As a result, the child has received medication and has been off school. I have spoken to Public Health England who have provided me with further information. I thought it was worth sending this out to you so that we can all be vigilant and avoid any potential spread of the disease.

What is Scarlet Fever?

A wide variety of bacteria and viruses can cause tonsillitis and other throat infections. Most are caused by viruses but streptococci bacteria account for 25 to 30% of cases. Certain strains of streptococcus bacteria produce a toxin which causes scarlet fever in susceptible people.

What are the symptoms?

There is acute inflammation extending over the pharynx or tonsils. The tonsils may be deep red in colour and partially covered with a thick yellowish exudate. The illness symptoms vary but in severe cases there may be high fever, difficulty in swallowing and tender enlarged lymph nodes.

A rash develops on the first day of fever, it is red, generalised, pinhead in size and gives the skin a sandpaper-like texture and the tongue has a strawberry-like appearance. The fever lasts 24 to 48 hours. Scarlet fever is now usually a mild illness but is rarely complicated by ear infections, rheumatic fever which affects the heart, and kidney problems.

How is Scarlet Fever spread?

Spread is by the respiratory route through inhaling or ingesting respiratory droplets or by direct contact with nose and throat discharges especially during sneezing and coughing.

Will a child be off school?

*Yes, if a child displays the above symptoms and should seek medical advice, however, children can return to school **24 hours** after commencing appropriate antibiotic treatment and they are well enough to return. If no antibiotics have been administered the person will be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks.*

Do's?

- Ensure that particular attention is paid to hand washing at all times.



Care – Build – Follow - Think



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- School to send the child home from school if unwell and displaying the above symptoms. .
- Parents to take the child to their GP if they display the above symptoms and explain that there has been a case of 'scarlet fever' in the classroom.
- School to Inform PHE if there is an outbreak and seek further advice.
- Parents/staff to remain vigilant for the above symptoms. Contact the school if required and maintain usual forms of communication.

The above information is to keep you informed. There is no need for any further action at this point. The staff and I will monitor the situation and take the necessary action/s if and when required. Any actions/decisions taken will be dependent upon the advice of Public Health England.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Scott (Headteacher)



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