



Guilden Sutton Church of England Primary School

Love and Justice for All

06/12/2022

Dear Parent,

Following on from recent reports of scarlet fever in the news, I would like to share with you a letter from **Ian Ashworth, the Director of Public Health**. We will continue to keep you updated and communicate any further information/guidance when it is received.

We are writing to inform you of a recent national increase in notifications of scarlet fever to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), above seasonal expected levels.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the signs, symptoms and the actions to be taken.

Signs and symptoms of scarlet fever

Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by Streptococcus pyogenes, or group A Streptococcus (GAS). The early symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours the characteristic red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on darker skin, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present. Patients 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, it is recognised that infections can be spread through direct physical contact between children and staff and through shared contact with surfaces such as table tops, taps, toys and handles. During periods of high incidence of scarlet fever there may also be an increase in outbreaks in schools, nurseries and other childcare settings.

*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 spread of infection.*

Although scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, patients can develop complications and if you have any concerns please contact your local Health Protection Team for advice.

Links to sources of further information on scarlet fever are included below. For any general queries, you can also contact us at HealthProtectionSecure@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

[Scarlet fever: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Please be reassured, that as a school, we continue to follow Public Health guidance.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Theresa Rainford

Guilden Sutton C. of E. Primary School, Arrowcroft Road, Guilden Sutton, Cheshire. CH3 7ES
Tel: 01244 300353 Email: admin@guildensutton.cheshire.sch.uk Website: www.guildensutton.cheshire.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Theresa Rainford, B.Ed. National SENDCO Qual. NPQSL.