

Date 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We have been informed that a small number of children who attend Calton Primary School have been diagnosed with confirmed scarlet fever. 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,
- Possibly nausea and vomiting,
- Rash - 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'.

If you think you, or your child, have scarlet fever:

- see your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible
- stay at home for **at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment**, to avoid spreading the infection.

#### **Treatment for scarlet fever**

- Your GP will prescribe antibiotic tablets (or liquid for young children) to take for five or 10 days.
- You or your child should start feeling better after a day or two, but make sure you finish the whole course of treatment.

#### **Preventing the Infection Spreading:**

- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze – throw away used tissues immediately
- wash your hands and your Childs' hands with soap and water often, especially after using or disposing of tissues
- avoid sharing utensils, cups and glasses, clothes, baths, bed linen, towels or toys

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.

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.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

Kind regards,

Jane Barker-Doe

A small, square image showing a handwritten signature in blue ink. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Jane Barker-Doe'.

Co-Head Teacher