



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher:
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Thursday 21st December 2023

Scarlet Fever

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been informed of a confirmed case of scarlet fever at Ecclesbourne School. 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
- **If you or your child has a high fever, severe muscle aches, pain in one area of the body and unexplained vomiting or diarrhoea seek medical help immediately**
- if your child has a confirmed case of Strep A/scarlet fever then please inform the school nurse Lisa Tanser on 01332 843200 or ltanser@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk

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.

Enhanced cleaning routines

Enhanced cleaning routines are in operation as part of our Covid-19 risk assessment and so toilet flush handles and door handles are cleaned throughout the day by our janitorial team and hand wash stations are available throughout the school. Pupils have separate year group sittings for lunch and tables are cleaned between sittings. We have reiterated to pupils and staff the importance of hand hygiene and covering your face when sneezing.

You can find more information in the enclosed guidance "[Scarlet fever: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/scarlet-fever-symptoms-diagnosis-and-treatment)", and further advice can also be obtained from the local Health Protection Team on 0344 225 4525 during office hours.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Tanser
School Nurse

James McNamara
Head Teacher