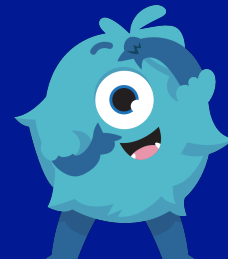


FLORENCE MELLY

COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Scarlet fever and Strep A (iGAS) Update

Dear parents/carers.

I am writing to you to pass on some information we have received about illnesses which appear to be causing concern at the moment.

Regionally and nationally, we continue to see high rates of scarlet fever, higher than would be expected for this time of year. The same pattern has been noted for cases of invasive group A streptococcus (iGAS), particularly in children under 10 years. Strep A is a far less common infection caused by the same bacteria as scarlet fever but can lead to more serious illness.

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.

Actions to take

- Children and adults with suspected scarlet fever should not attend nursery/school/work until 24 hours after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment.
- Whilst scarlet fever is circulating it is important that any children and adults with chickenpox do stay off school or nursery until all their blisters have dried over, which is usually 5 days after they first appeared.
- It is important to tell us if your child has chicken pox as there are particular precautions we would take if both illnesses were present in school.

More information about scarlet fever can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/scarlet-fever-symptoms-diagnosis-treatment>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

Rest assured, many children get seasonal coughs, colds and fevers, which are nothing to worry about. If your child becomes ill, don't panic, but always seek medical advice, particularly if a rash appears or your child does not begin to feel better after a 24 - 48 hour period.

MESSAGE FOR PARENTS FROM PROFESSOR MATTHEW ASHTON, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Please take some time to read through this really important update from Public Health: [Letter from Public Health](#).

Take care and stay safe.



Mr Leach
Headteacher
Florence Melly Community Primary School

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