



St Bartholomew's CE Multi Academy Trust
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St Bartholomew's CE Primary School

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Dear Parents/carers,

As I am sure you will be aware from the media, there has been a recent rise in children across the country contracting the strep A infection. Although usually mild, this can occasionally lead to complications and serious illness. Symptoms of strep A include sore throats, fevers and severe muscle aches. If your child has any of these symptoms, we would strongly encourage you to contact your doctor and seek medical advice. Please also keep poorly children off school to avoid the spread of infection, as we are seeing a sharp rise in illnesses amongst children and staff.

Strep A can also lead to scarlet fever. 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 diagnosed, please inform school as soon as possible, as this is a notifiable illness.

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.

As a school, we have increased hygiene measures, including using hand sanitiser, increased cleaning of surfaces and touchpoints and increased ventilation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact school.

Yours sincerely

Rachael Kilmister
Headteacher