



Public Health
England

23rd February 2018

Dear Parent /Carer,

We have been informed that a small number of children who attend Netley Abbey Junior and Infant 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 to 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
- If your GP diagnoses scarlet fever, make sure that you/your child takes the full course of antibiotics as prescribed. If your GP doesn't diagnose scarlet fever, it is very unlikely that antibiotics will help.
- **stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment**, to avoid spreading the infection.

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.

You can find more information in the attached [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and further advice can also be obtained from NHS Choices <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>.