

Churchside Federation

Gooderstone C of E Primary Academy
The Street
Gooderstone
King's Lynn
Norfolk
PE33 9BP
Tel: 01366 328280
Senior Teacher: Mrs E. Keeble



Mundford C of E Primary Academy
St Leonard's Street
Mundford
Thetford
Norfolk
IP26 5ED
Tel: 01842 878278
Head of School: Miss L. Brown

Website: www.churchsidefederation.norfolk.sch.uk
Executive Headteacher: Mrs Godbold

Wednesday 7th December 2022

Scarlet Fever/ Group A Streptococcus

Dear Parent/Carers,

You will no doubt be aware of reports on the news of cases of Scarlet Fever and Group A Streptococcus. Schools have received guidance information from the Local Authority and I am writing to share this with you and signpost where you can get further information if you wish to do so. The current information from UK Health and Security Agency (UKHSA) is that there is no evidence that a new strain is circulating. It says the increase is most likely related to high amounts of circulating bacteria and social mixing and lots of viruses that cause sore throats, colds and coughs circulating which should resolve without medical intervention.

Below we have gathered some information to help you spot the signs and symptoms and what to do if your child is unwell.

Strep Throat

This is caused by bacteria called Group A Strep (GAS). Over the last few weeks it has been found in some children who have become very sick, very quickly. Fortunately, this is still rare.

GAS usually causes a mild illness with fever and a sore throat (Strep throat) but not a runny nose or too much of a cough. Your child may be poorly for a few days but will usually recover. Antibiotics may help them recover quicker.

Signs that suggest your child might have Strep throat are:

- Fever within the last 24 hours
- White spots at the back of their throat (pus on their tonsils)

- Very large or red tonsils
- Sore (tender) lumps under their chin
- If they have become poorly quickly over the past couple of days
- No cough or runny nose

If you are concerned that your child might have these please contact 111, your GP Surgery, or Walk-in Centre for advice.

Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet fever (sometimes called scarlatina) is an infectious disease caused by bacteria called *Streptococcus pyogenes*, or group A streptococcus (GAS). The same bacteria can also cause impetigo.

Scarlet fever is characterised by a rash, which usually accompanies a sore throat. Bacteria that cause the infection produce toxins (poisons), which cause the rash, a red and swollen tongue and flushed cheeks. The scarlet fever rash can be confused with measles.

Scarlet fever is mainly a childhood disease and is most commonly seen between the ages of 2 and 8 years.

Although historically considered a dangerous disease, it is now much less serious.

Scarlet fever, is highly contagious and is spread by close contact with someone carrying the bacteria. It takes around 2 to 5 days to develop symptoms after exposure to these bacteria.

If you think you or your child has scarlet fever, you should contact [NHS 111 online](#), or call NHS 111 or contact your GP.

Any children with suspected scarlet fever should stay at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

Further information can be found here:

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-update-on-scarlet-fever-and-invasive-group-a-strep>

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

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Godbold.