



HOLMLEIGH PRIMARY  
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06/12/2022

## HPZ 389603

Dear Parent/Guardian

We have been informed that a number of children who attend Holmleigh Primary School have been diagnosed with confirmed and suspected scarlet fever. We have advised the local Health Protection Team, who have advised the following.

Scarlet fever should be treated with antibiotics to minimise the risk of complications and reduce the spread to others.

The symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. This is followed by a fine red skin 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, has 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.
- It is also preferable that the patient has a throat swab to confirm the diagnosis.
- Stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection.

### **Infection control measures at school:**

- Regular hand washing and increased supervision in the early years.
- Liquid soap and drying hand thoroughly after washing

- All scrapes or wounds thoroughly cleaned and covered while at school – children and adults

## **Complications**

Children who have had chickenpox recently are more likely to develop more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever. Parents of children who have recently had chickenpox should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high fever, skin infections and swollen, painful joints. If you are concerned for any reason, please seek medical assistance immediately.

If your child has an underlying condition which affects their immune system (including diabetes), you should contact your GP or hospital doctor to discuss whether any additional measures are needed. You can find more information in the attached FAQ sheet and further advice can also be obtained from the Health Protection Team on **020 3837 7084, quoting the HPZ Ref number at the top of this letter.**

In addition to the above, we ask you to be vigilant but also bear in mind that at this time of the year there is increased number of cold and flu spread so it is extra important that guidelines listed here are followed. Please inform the school office if your child is being treated for scarlet fever in order for us to keep tracking and monitoring the situation.

I wish you all good health and thank you for your support.

### **Useful links:**

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

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

**Holmleigh Primary School**

**Kevin Ward – Head Teacher  
Zubeyde Aydemir – SENCo**