

St Mary's Lewisham CE Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Christine Graham

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"Personal Development at St Mary's is Outstanding" - Ofsted Dec 2021

Our Vision

To be a learning community that promotes the unique gifts, wellbeing and potential of every person. Our work is founded on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, building on His message of equality, peace and justice, guided by His words 'As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34).

6 December 2023

Dear parent/carer,

RE: ELEVATED LEVELS OF SCARLET FEVER IN BRITAIN

As you are all aware through the media, Britain is continuing to see elevated levels of scarlet fever / Strep A cases, particularly in young children. Tragically in some cases, this has been fatal.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the signs, symptoms and the actions to be taken if you become aware of cases or an outbreak.

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.

This Scarlet Fever Factsheet includes some useful information and images: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

What to do if your child becomes ill:

- Please see your GP immediately if your child has symptoms.
- Please inform the school immediately if your child has been diagnosed with scarlet fever/Strep A
- **Please always keep your child at home if they are feeling unwell to limit the spread of infections.**

To reduce the chance of spreading scarlet fever:

- wash your hands often with soap and water
- use tissues to trap germs from coughs or sneezes
- bin used tissues as quickly as possible

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Christine Graham
Headteacher

