



# Fleet Wood Lane School

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## News in School

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Illness and Scarlet Fever Update

Unfortunately, today we have been notified of a confirmed case of scarlet fever in school, for a member of our Bats class. We are following health guidance to schools and in line with this have notified The East Midlands Health Security Agency and the Local Authority Health Protection Team.

Below you will see information provided to school regarding scarlet fever and I am also sending correspondence from Lincolnshire County Council for your attention.

If your child is unwell and presents the symptoms detailed below, please do keep them at home until they are feeling better. (Please remember to notify the office of the absence.)

Children diagnosed with scarlet fever can return to school 24 hours after commencing antibiotics and siblings/close contacts, who are not affected, can continue to attend school. Children with scarlet fever who do not receive antibiotics can be contagious for up to 2 weeks, so it is really important if you suspect your child has scarlet fever that you contact your GP.

I have attached the guidance sent out before Christmas, for your information.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs M Parker  
Head Teacher

## SCARLET FEVER AND STREP A

There has been a higher number of scarlet fever cases than usual for this time of year. Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness but is highly infectious. Scarlet fever is caused by a bacteria called group A streptococci (GAS) which can cause other respiratory and skin infections, including impetigo (a skin infection where small pustules join to form crusty yellow sores), tonsillitis and pharyngitis (sore throat).

There has also been a rise in lower respiratory tract Strep A infections over the past few weeks, which in some children can cause severe illness if the bacteria enters the blood stream. The most serious infections come from invasive group A strep, known as iGAS. Whilst iGAS infections are still uncommon, there has been an increase in cases this year, particularly in children under 10 and, sadly, a small number of deaths.

**It is important, therefore, to treat children with signs of group A strep infections, like scarlet fever.**

Scarlet fever symptoms to look out for include:



### What to do if a child is unwell

If a child becomes seriously unwell, parents should be advised to contact 111 or their GP, particularly if the child's condition is getting worse, they are eating or drinking less, have a temperature above 39 degrees and are tired or irritable. Please only attend A&E in an emergency.

Parents are advised to call 999 or go to A&E if:

- The child is having difficulty breathing or there are changes in their breathing, for example pauses
- Skin, tongue, and lips are blue
- Is floppy and will not wake up or unable to stay awake