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Dear parents and carers

I am writing to inform you that Scarlet Fever is circulating in our community and I would like your support in being vigilant to your child developing any symptoms.

Here is some information about the infection that might be helpful for you and your child:

Question	Information
What is Scarlet Fever?	Scarlet fever is a contagious infection which presents as a red rash and high temperature caused by bacteria (Group A streptococci). It tends to affect young children mainly. Prompt treatment with antibiotics usually prevents any complications and treatment will also prevent further spread to others.
What are the common symptoms?	A red rash over the body that is often most obvious in the creases of the joints and over the chest and stomach. It usually appears white when pressed. • skin may feel rough to the touch, sometimes described as feeling like sandpaper • will also likely have a sore throat and swollen neck glands.
How is the infection spread?	People can become infected in several ways, including: • contact with an infected person • contact with contaminated surfaces or objects and then touching eyes, nose or mouth You can spread Scarlet Fever to other people until 24 hours after you take your first dose of antibiotics. If you do not take antibiotics, you can spread the infection for 2 to 3 weeks after your symptoms start.
What can be done to prevent infection?	✓ Wash hands frequently with soap and water, including before eating or preparing food and after toilet use ✓ Thoroughly clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces by using a bleach-based household cleaner ✓ Wash bedding and clothing on high temperatures ✓ Good ventilation of indoor spaces ✓ Catch It, Kill It, Bin It ✓ Do not share cutlery, cups, towels, clothes, bedding or baths with anyone who has symptoms of Scarlet fever
If my child has symptoms, can they attend the setting?	Your child will need to stay away from the setting until all the spots have formed a scab. If your child is feeling poorly, they should stay at home until they are feeling better. If your child has a high temperature, they should stay at home. Your child can return to the setting when they are well and have finished one full day (24 hours) of antibiotic treatment.

Should I contact a GP?	If your child develops any of these symptoms please contact your GP and let them know that another child in the school has Scarlet Fever A GP will prescribe an antibiotic for your child. It is important that your child takes the full course of medicine. If your child experiences prolonged symptoms or you are concerned at all, contact your GP. If you or your child may be vulnerable to infections, are immuno-compromised or you are pregnant please consult with your GP or midwife if you are concerned. You can contact the NHS by calling 111 or if it is an emergency, dial 999.
Where can I find more information about supporting my child?	It is always important that your child remains hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids such as water. Health A to Z - NHS (www.nhs.uk) Direct link to NHS advice for Scarlet Fever

I hope this information is helpful, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Miss Waites