

5 December 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have been informed that a small number of children who attend Corby Primary Academy have been diagnosed with suspected / confirmed scarlet fever. Although scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, it should be treated with antibiotics to minimise the risk of complications and reduce the spread to others.

The **symptoms** of scarlet fever include;

- a sore throat,
- headache,
- fever,
- Possibly nausea and vomiting,
- Rash - fine red 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'.

If you think you, or your child, have scarlet fever:

- see your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible
- stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for **at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment**, to avoid spreading the infection.

#### Treatment for scarlet fever

- Your GP will prescribe antibiotic tablets (or liquid for young children) to take for five or 10 days.
- You or your child should start feeling better after a day or two, but make sure you finish the whole course of treatment.

#### Complications

Children who have had chickenpox recently are more likely to develop more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever and so parents should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high fever, cellulitis (skin infection) and arthritis (joint pain and swelling). If you are concerned for any reason please seek medical assistance.

If your child has an underlying condition which affects their immune system, you should contact your GP or hospital doctor to discuss whether any additional measures are needed.

Further information can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

Kind regards

*A. Evans*

Mr A Evans  
Interim Principal

**The Corby Primary Academy is part of the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust Group of Academies**