



29 April 2014

Dear parent/carer,

We have received notification from the Public Health Authority regarding an increase in cases of scarlet fever. Since the beginning of the year, there has been 342 cases of scarlet fever reported of which 35 were confirmed. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the signs, symptoms and the actions to be taken.

### 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. 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.

### Infection control advice

In schools, infections can be spread through direct physical contact between children and staff and through shared contact with surfaces such as table tops, taps, toys and handles. If you suspect your child has scarlet fever, please keep them at home for 24 hours after they have started taking the appropriate antibiotic treatment. Please contact Student Services on ext 246 and Caroline Martin on ext 275 should your child be absent due to scarlet fever.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Mrs Yvonne Weatherhead  
Deputy Headteacher

