



The Academy of Woodlands

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Interim Headteacher: Mrs E Poad

Tuesday 10th May 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

Re: Increase in scarlet fever and chicken pox

We are writing to inform you that we have been told by Medway Public Health of a recent national increase of scarlet fever from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA). This is in line with the seasonal expected levels which had previously dropped during the pandemic.

There has also been concurrent increases in chickenpox. It is suspected that because of reduced mixing during the COVID-19 pandemic, a larger proportion of children of reception and school year one age remain susceptible to chickenpox.

Due to this increase of cases, this has had an impact in nurseries and schools where increased cases have been recorded since March 2022.

The information below is to make you aware of some of the symptoms and expectations in school for Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet Fever

Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection. 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.

If your child presents with the symptoms above, please do not bring them to school and contact your Doctor/GP for advice; it is recommended that your child does not attend school for at least 24 hours after the commencement of appropriate antibiotic treatment.

If you would like more information on Scarlet Fever please see the following link:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/scarlet-fever-symptoms-diagnosis-treatment

If you would like any further information please do contact the school office.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs E Poad
Interim Headteacher