



HEATHWOOD LOWER SCHOOL, Heath Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 3AU
www.heathwoodlower.com Telephone: 01525 377096 E-mail: office@heathwood.beds.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Susanne Dove B. Ed (Hons), NPQH Mrs Jackie Wright B. Ed (Hons)

5th December 2022

Dear Parent /Guardian,

We have been informed that a small number of children who attend Heathwood Lower School have been diagnosed with confirmed cases of scarlet fever. We also have a confirmed case of Strep A.

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, nausea and vomiting. This is followed by a 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'. The face can be flushed red but pale around the mouth.

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

- see your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible
- make sure that you/your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor.
- stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for **at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment**, to avoid spreading the infection.

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 immediately.

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.

You can find more information in the attached factsheet.

Attendance

Whilst attendance is very important and we check and communicate attendance figures regularly with you, your child's health is paramount and we will understand if they are not well enough to be in school.

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Susanne Dove
Headteacher

