

Dear Families,

You may have read and seen in the media about the increase nationally of cases of Scarlet Fever to levels above what would normally be seen. This includes cases in the local area of Hounslow.

As a result of this, I wanted to share the guidance and information I have been given so that you as parents can be vigilant and keep your child protected and safe.

Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, but it is highly infectious. 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.

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.

Contact NHS 111 or your GP if you suspect your child has scarlet fever, because early treatment of scarlet fever with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications such as pneumonia or a bloodstream infection. If your child has scarlet fever, keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

You can read the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance here:

<https://gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-update-on-scarlet-fever-and-invasive-group-a-strep>

To read the guidance on Scarlet Fever from the Government, click here:

<https://gov.uk/government/publications/scarlet-fever-symptoms-diagnosis-treatment>



I don't want you to be alarmed, but I feel it is important you aware of this so you can be vigilant.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Ralston". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a faint, dotted-line rectangular border.

Helen Ralston
Head of The Rise School