

# Great Crosby Catholic Primary School



The Northern Road • Liverpool • L23 2RQ

**Telephone:** 0151-9248661  
**Email:** [admin.greatcrosby@schools.sefton.gov.uk](mailto:admin.greatcrosby@schools.sefton.gov.uk)  
**Website:** [www.greatcrosbycatholicprimary.com](http://www.greatcrosbycatholicprimary.com)

**Headteacher Mrs L Morton**

LM/SM

20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## Group A Streptococcus / Scarlet Fever

Dear Parents / Carers

We have been informed that a number of individuals who attend Great Crosby Catholic Primary School have been diagnosed with Group A Streptococcus which is the bacteria that can cause Scarlet Fever.

We have sought advice from UK Health Security Agency North West Health Protection Team. They have advised that 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.

### **Symptoms of Strep A can include:**

- Flu-like symptoms: fever, aching, swollen glands
- Sore throat
- Muscle aches
- Nausea and vomiting.

### **Symptoms of Scarlet Fever can include:**

- Sandpaper like rash
- Rashes that start on the face or neck and spread onto arms, trunk and legs.
- Strawberry tongue
- Difficulty swallowing
- Looking flushed.

If you think you or your child have Scarlet Fever or Strep A:

- See your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible.
- Ask your GP to take a throat swab to confirm if this is scarlet fever.
- Make sure that you/your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor.
- **Stay at home and away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection.**

**Please contact school to inform us if your child has Strep A / Scarlet Fever confirmed by a medical professional.**

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

Potential complications:

Children who have had chickenpox recently are more likely to develop more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever and so parents/guardians 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. All children with chickenpox should remain off school / nursery until at least 5 days after the start of their rash AND until all their spots have crusted over.

Infection control advice:

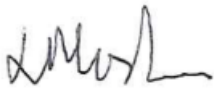
The Health Protection Team have advised us on hygiene measures to help prevent spread within our school / nursery. Parents/guardians can also help with this by reminding children of the importance of coughing / sneezing into tissues and placing these in the bin, washing hands regularly and ensuring any breaks to the skin are covered with a waterproof plaster/dressing before attending school / nursery.

Further information:

You can find more information at:

- NHS Choices <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>
- UKHSA Scarlet Fever Frequently Asked Questions <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/scarlet-fever-symptoms-diagnosis-treatment>

Yours sincerely



Louise Morton  
Headteacher