



Public Health England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

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To Parents and staff,

Re: Suspected Scarlet Fever Outbreak at Joy Lane Primary School. Joy Lane. Whitstable. CT5 4LT.

Public Health England have been informed that some children in the Year Group 2 have been diagnosed with scarlet fever infection in the last few days.

Scarlet fever is an infection caused by streptococcal bacteria. The symptoms are a sore throat, rash, fever, headache, swollen lymph nodes in neck and decreased appetite. The rash, usually on the neck and chest, can feel like sandpaper but may not always be present.

Scarlet fever is mainly a childhood disease and is most common between the ages of two and eight years. Adults can also catch scarlet fever, but the disease is much less common in adults.

Scarlet fever is highly contagious. The bacteria are carried in the saliva and mucus in the nose. The disease is spread by sneezing, coughing, or breathing out. It takes around two to five days to develop symptoms after being infected.

Antibiotics cure the infection rapidly so serious consequences of the infection are now very rare. If your child is found to have scarlet fever, they will need treating with antibiotics and will need to be off school/nursery until at least 24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment and the fever is gone.

If you think your child has scarlet fever, you should consult your GP. Please remember to take this letter with you.

Yours sincerely,

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