

2nd February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have been informed that **two children** who attend Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary have been diagnosed with scarlet fever / Group A Strep Infection. Neither of the affected children have been hospitalized, and are responding positively to antibiotics.

The email we sent out on Tuesday contains lots of relevant information, so please do ensure you have read it in full.

We please ask that families act with extra precaution if their child is presenting any symptoms of illness, particularly high temperatures.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO NEXT

1. If you think your child has a Group A Strep infection

- See your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible. It is also preferable that a throat swab is taken to confirm the diagnosis.
- Make sure that your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor/healthcare professional.
- Anyone with symptoms suggestive of scarlet fever should stay at home, away from nursery, school, childcare setting or work for at least **24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment**, to avoid spreading the infection. If it is impetigo, they will need to remain away from setting for 48 hours.

2. If your child has had chickenpox or influenza (flu) infection recently

Children who have had chickenpox or flu recently are more likely to develop more serious illness during an outbreak of scarlet fever and so you should remain vigilant for additional symptoms such as a persistent high fever, skin infections and swollen, painful joints. **If you are concerned, then please seek medical assistance immediately**

3. 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

4. Be aware of invasive Group A Streptococcus (iGAS) infection

Please read the enclosed Group A Streptococcus (GAS) and Scarlet Fever factsheet which includes information about iGAS

As a parent, you should trust your own judgement.

Information about [scarlet fever](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/) and [Strep A](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/strep-a/) can be accessed by clicking on these links:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/strep-a/>

Hand washing remains the most important step in preventing such infections. Good hand hygiene should be encouraged for all pupils, so we plan in key times of the day for the children to wash their hands and regularly monitor the quality of handwashing after

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the children use the toilet. We ensure children wash their hands before and after eating, and after playing. It is important that hands are washed correctly and we have some child-friendly resources we share with the children to support this process.

Children and adults are encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when they cough and sneeze, to wash their hands after sneezing, and after using or disposing of tissues.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Jane Bellerby
Executive Headteacher