

31st January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have been informed that one child who attends Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary School has been diagnosed with Scarlet Fever and Strep A. Whilst this is not considered an outbreak, we felt it was important for families to know so they can recognise the signs and symptoms and know when to seek medical advice.

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 rash, which typically first appears on the chest and stomach and rapidly spreads to other parts of the body. On white skin the rash looks pink or red. On brown and black skin it might be harder to see a change in colour, but you can still feel the sandpaper-like texture of the rash and see the raised bumps. 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 or 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

The infection causing Scarlet Fever (Group A streptococcal infection) also causes sore throats (strep throat), mild fever and minor skin infections (for example, impetigo). If someone in your family has any of these symptoms in the next 30 days, we advise that you take them, along with this letter, to see their GP. Their GP can arrange for them to be tested and then treated with antibiotics if the GP thinks they have a Group A streptococcal infection. If the GP thinks that the person has Group A streptococcal infection, they will need to remain off work, school or nursery for 24 hours following the start of the antibiotics.

Children who have had Chickenpox recently are more likely to develop more serious infection should they catch Scarlet Fever. Parents should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high temperature, skin infection and 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.

Executive Headteacher: Ms Sarah Jane Bellerby

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You can find more information in on Scarlet Fever symptoms, diagnosis and treatment by clicking [here](#) or copying this link into your browser:

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

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 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.

Please do not hesitate to give me a call if you would like to discuss anything further. I am offsite on Wednesday 1st February but I am still available – you can email me at sbellerby@mulberryschoolstrust.org or call the school and Ky will ask me to call you back. I will be back at Mulberry Wood Wharf on Thursday.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Jane Bellerby
Executive Headteacher