



Sir Edmund Hillary Academy
A L.E.A.D. Academy

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31st January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you that we have been made aware of a number of children within our school and the local area who have been diagnosed with suspected or confirmed cases of scarlet fever.

Scarlet fever is generally a mild childhood illness; however, unlike influenza, it does necessitate antibiotic treatment. The symptoms typically include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea, and vomiting, followed by the appearance of a fine rash that usually first emerges on the chest and stomach before rapidly spreading to other areas of the body. On white skin, the rash appears pink or red, while on brown and black skin, it may be less visible but can be detected by its sandpaper-like texture and raised bumps. Additionally, the face may appear flushed, though it is often pale around the mouth. As the rash fades, peeling skin may be observed on the fingertips, toes, and in the groin area.

If you suspect that you or your child may have scarlet fever, I urge you to take the following steps: Consult your GP or contact NHS 111 without delay.

Ensure that you or your child completes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor. Remain at home, away from nursery, school, or work for at least 24 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment to minimise the risk of spreading the infection.

It is important to note that the infection responsible for scarlet fever (group A streptococcal infection) is also linked to conditions such as sore throats (strep throat), mild fever, and minor skin infections (e.g., impetigo). Should anyone in your family exhibit any of these, please follow the guidance above.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Deborah Eccles Head of School
Sir Edmund Hillary Academy