

Respect

Perseverance

Pride

Cooperation

Motivation

Kindness

**Bromesberrow St Mary’s C of E Primary School and Pre-School**

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**Albright Lane Bromesberrow Herefordshire HR8 1RT**

Tel: 01531 650340 e-mail: [admin@st-marys-bromesberrow.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys-bromesberrow.gloucs.sch.uk)

Dear Parents,

We have a confirmed case of scarlet fever.

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 scarlet fever generally take two to five days to appear after infection.

The illness often starts with

• Sore throat

• Headache

• High temperature (fever)

• Swollen neck glands

• Loss of appetite

• Nausea or vomiting

• Red lines in the folds of the body, such as the armpit, which may last a couple of days after the rash has gone

• A white coating on the tongue, which peels a few days later leaving the tongue red and swollen (this is known as strawberry tongue)

• A general feeling of being unwell

• Rash developing 12 to 48 hours late

* Red blotches are the first sign of the rash. These turn into a fine pink-red rash that feels like sandpaper to touch and looks like sunburn.
* This usually starts in one place, but soon spreads to other parts of the body. It commonly affects the ears, neck, chest, elbows, and inner thighs and groin, and may be itchy. The rash does not normally spread to the face however, the cheeks become flushed and the area just around the mouth stays quite pale. The rash will turn white a glass is pressed against it.
* The rash usually fades after about a week, but the outer layers of skin, usually on the hands and feet, may peel for several weeks afterwards

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/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 symptoms of Scarlet Fever may be relieved by;

* Drinking plenty of cool fluids or eating soft foods (if the individual has a sore throat)
* Taking medicine to bring down a temperature
* Using calamine lotion or antihistamine tablets to relive itching

**Complications**

Children who have had chickenpox recently are more likely to develop more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever and so parents 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. 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.

You can find more information at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/scarlet-fever-symptoms-diagnosis-treatment/scarlet-fever-factsheet#potential-complications>

Kind Regards,

Leonie Mison and Laura Hankins