



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr P.O'Kane

Scarlet Fever

Friday 5th May 2017

Dear Parent & Carers,

We have been informed that a small number of children who attend Holy Family Catholic Primary School have been diagnosed with suspected scarlet fever. We have discussed the situation with the local Health Protection Team and are writing to provide you with advice and an information leaflet.

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 red rash which typically first appears on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body. On more darkly-pigmented skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, but it should feel like 'sandpaper'. 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/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

You can find more information in the attached factsheet.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

Peter O'Kane Headteacher