

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Executive Head: Mr Serge Cefai

Head of School: Ms Miranda Baldwin



20 June 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Scarlet Fever

There has been a case of scarlet fever here at the Academy, this means your child may have been exposed.

What is scarlet fever?

Scarlet fever is a scattered red rash and high temperature caused by bacteria (Group A streptococci). Occasionally these bacteria can cause kidney or heart complications. **Prompt treatment with an antibiotic usually prevents these complications. Treatment will also prevent spread to others.**

What are the symptoms of scarlet fever?

The symptoms of scarlet fever are non-specific in early illness and may include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours the characteristic red, generalised pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. On more darkly-pigmented skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, although the "sandpaper" feel should be present. Patients typically have flushed cheeks and pallor around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a 'strawberry tongue'. During convalescence peeling of the skin may occur at the tips of fingers and toes and less often over wide areas of the trunk and limbs.

What should I do if I think my child has it?

If your child develops any of these symptoms bring him/her to your GP for examination. Tell the doctor that another child in the school has scarlet fever.

If my child has scarlet fever what should I do?

The doctor will prescribe an antibiotic for your child. It is important that your child takes the full course of medicine.

Can my child stay in school?

Your child can return to school when he/she is well and has finished one full day of antibiotic treatment.

What can I do to prevent spread of infection at home?

The bacteria are spread through contact with nose and mouth secretions so:

- Wash hands thoroughly after wiping nose.
- Wash hands thoroughly before preparing food.
- Wash dishes well in hot soapy water.
- Do not share cups, straws, spoons, eating utensils etc.
- Do not share toothbrushes.

Thank you for giving this your attention. Your GP will be able to answer any further questions that you might have concerning scarlet fever.

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Beckley
Head of Primary

Tel: 0208 853 6250 Email: info@stmatthewacademy.co.uk Web: www.stmatthewacademy.co.uk

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