



Headteacher Mrs McIntosh Coton-in-the-Elms C of E Primary School

7 December 2022

Dear Parent / Guardian,

As you may have read in the media there has been an increasing number of cases of Streptococcus recently, particularly amongst children. Streptococcus is a contagious bacterium usually found in the nose or throat. Many people carry it harmlessly without even knowing, but they can spread it to others who might become ill. Most symptoms are mild - a sore throat or rash - that can be treated with antibiotics.

Streptococcus can also lead to more serious illnesses, such as scarlet fever, although this is rare and can also be treated with antibiotics. 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. The face can be flushed red but pale around the mouth. On more darkly-pigmented skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, but it may feel like 'sandpaper'.

If you think you, or your child, have scarlet fever you should:

- 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.

If you are concerned for any reason, you should seek medical advice.

We do not currently have any known cases of this in school or the local area. Please be reassured that the school is having a more regular, 'deeper' clean using disinfectant and more regular cleaning of 'touch points'. Pupils are being reminded to wash their hands regularly and have been shown information on how to wash hands thoroughly.

We know there are many bugs around at the moment, we wish anyone who is feeling 'under the weather' a speedy recovery.

Yours sincerely

Mrs McIntosh
Headteacher

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