



St Nicholas^{CE}
First School

learning and believing, growing and achieving

St. Nicholas CE
First School
Belvide Gardens
Codsall
Wolverhampton
WV8 1AN

13th March 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

We have been informed that a child who attends the School has been diagnosed with suspected chicken pox. There has also been a child who has been diagnosed with suspected scarlet fever in the School.

Chickenpox

Chickenpox is a mild and common childhood illness that most children catch at some point. It causes a rash of red, itchy spots that turn into fluid-filled blisters. They then crust over to form scabs, which eventually drop off. To prevent spreading the infection, keep children off nursery or school until all the spots have crusted over.

Although chickenpox is a mild illness that gets better on its own, some children can become more seriously ill and need to see a doctor. Please contact your GP straight away if your child develops any abnormal symptoms, for example:

- if the blisters on their skin become infected
- if your child has a pain in their chest or has difficulty breathing

Scarlet fever

Scarlet fever is also a mild childhood illness, but unlike chickenpox, it requires antibiotic treatment. Symptoms include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting, 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 and there may be a white coating on the tongue, which peels a few days later leaving the tongue red and swollen (known as strawberry tongue). As the rash fades, the skin on the fingertips, toes and groin area can peel.

If you think you or your child have scarlet fever or chicken pox

- 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 if diagnosed with Scarlet fever.

Email: headteacher@st-nicholas.staffs.sch.uk
Enquiries: 01902 842998
Web: st-nicholas.staffs.sch.uk



- stay at home, away from school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection if diagnosed with Scarlet fever

Complications

Children who have had chickenpox recently are more likely to develop more serious infection when scarlet fever is also circulating, so parents should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high fever, cellulitis (skin infection) and arthritis. 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 on chickenpox and scarlet fever on NHS choices: www.nhs.uk

Further advice can also be obtained from the Health Protection Team on 0344 225 3560 (Opt 2, Opt 1) during office hours.

Yours sincerely

Miss J Parker

Headteacher