

Charlestown Community Primary School and Nursery



Tuesday 6th December 2022

Dear parents and carers

Important: Scarlet Fever and Strep A information

You may be aware that there is currently a national concern around high rates of scarlet Fever and A streptococcus (iGAS), particularly in children under 10 years old. IGAS is a far less common infection caused by the same bacteria as scarlet fever, but this can lead to a more serious illness.

Signs and symptoms of scarlet fever

The early symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, headache, fever, sickness, and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours the characteristic red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on darker skin, although the sandpaper feel should be present. Patients typically have flushed cheeks and paleness around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a 'strawberry tongue'. As the child improves peeling of the skin can occur.

Infection can be spread through direct physical contact between children and through shared contact with surfaces and toys.

What to do

If your child is unwell and has the above symptoms, please keep them off school until symptoms clear.

Please also ensure that any cuts or scrapes are thoroughly cleaned and covered with waterproof dressings to help prevent infection. Please also encourage your children to wash their hands often and keep spaces as well ventilated where possible. We will ensure extra cleaning measures and increased hand washing is in place.

Whilst scarlet fever is circulating it is important that any children with chickenpox stay off school until all their blisters have dried over, which is at least 5 days after they first appeared. Children and adults with suspected scarlet fever should not attend school until 24 hours after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment for scarlet fever.

If you are concerned about any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact any of the team.

Yours sincerely

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