



BROOKSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher – Mr D Orme BA (Hons) NPQH Deputy Head – Ms J Smith B Ed (Hons) NPQSL

“Happy and Successful in Everything we Do!”

19th June 2024

Dear Parents,

We have received confirmation of a case of Scarlet Fever in school. Any diagnosed cases of scarlet fever should be reported to school. Please read the following information carefully.

Prevention:

Scarlet fever is spread via the mucus and saliva of infected people. It can also be caught from any drinking glasses, plates or utensils they have used, through physical contact or contact with surfaces such as table tops, taps, toys and handles. To protect children and adults from getting the illness please:

- Ensure that hands are washed often
- Do not share eating utensils with an infected person
- Wash, or dispose of, handkerchiefs and tissues contaminated by an infected person
- Be aware that you can catch scarlet fever by inhaling airborne droplets if someone with the illness coughs or sneezes in the air near you

Symptoms:

- The first symptoms of scarlet fever often include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours the characteristic fine red rash develops (if you touch it, it feels like sandpaper). Typically, it 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, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present
- Fever over 38.3° C (101° F) or higher is common
- White coating on the tongue, which peels a few days later, leaving the tongue looking red and swollen (known as 'strawberry tongue')
- Swollen glands in the neck
- Feeling tired and unwell
- Flushed red face, but pale around the mouth. The flushed face may appear more 'sunburnt' on darker skin
- Peeling skin on the fingertips, toes and groin area, as the rash fades.

It usually takes two to five days from being infected before the first symptoms appear, however this may be as short as one day and as long as seven days.

Advice:

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

- See your family doctor as soon as possible – scarlet fever is readily treated, usually with antibiotics
- Make sure that you/your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor
- Stay at home, away from school or work for at least 24 hours after starting treatment, to avoid spreading the infection. If other siblings are feeling well they can attend school/nursery as usual.
- You can help stop the spread of infection through frequent hand washing and by not sharing eating utensils, clothes, bedding and towels. All contaminated tissues or handkerchiefs should be washed, or disposed of immediately.



- Good hygiene practice such as hand washing remains the most important step in preventing and controlling spread of infection

Scarlet fever usually clears up after a week, but it is advisable to visit your GP to get a full diagnosis and proper treatment if an individual experiences symptoms.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Orme
Headteacher

