

Eastfield Primary Academy

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Principal - Kerry Thompson
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Friday 13th December, 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been informed that a small number of children have been diagnosed with confirmed scarlet fever.

Although scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, it should be treated with antibiotics to minimise the risk of complications and reduce the spread to others.

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. 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.

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

- 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.

Complications

Children, who have had chickenpox recently, are more likely to develop more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever and so parents should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high fever, cellulitis (skin infection) and arthritis (joint pain and swelling). If you are concerned for any reason, please seek medical assistance immediately.

If you or your child have an underlying condition which affects their immune system, you should contact your GP or hospital doctor to discuss whether any additional measures are needed.

Hand washing remains the most important step in preventing such infections. Good hand hygiene should be enforced for everyone. At school, measures are being put in place to ensure children:

- Wash their hands at the start of the school day;
- After using the toilet;

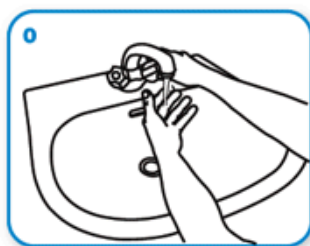
- After play
- Before and after eating
- At the end of the school day.

We are in the process of ensuring all key areas are sanitised and staff will regularly sanitise high risk areas throughout the school day. To keep yourselves and your children safe, please encourage your child to wash their hands regularly at home also.

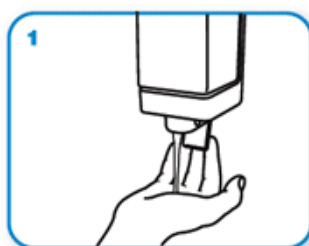
Kind regards,

K. A. Thompson

Principal



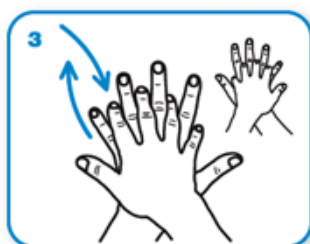
Wet hands with water



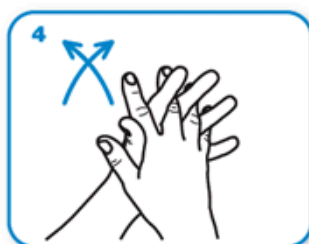
apply enough soap to cover all hand surfaces.



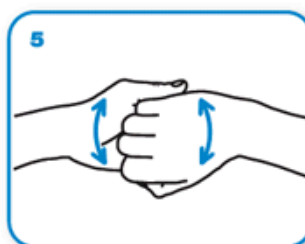
Rub hands palm to palm



right palm over left dorsum with interlaced fingers and vice versa



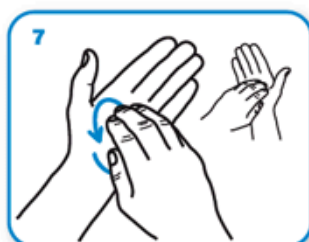
palm to palm with fingers interlaced



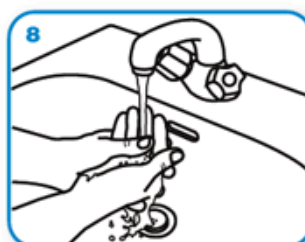
backs of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked



rotational rubbing of left thumb clasped in right palm and vice versa



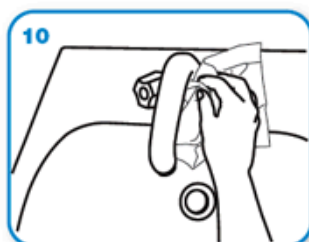
rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa.



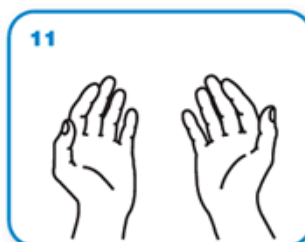
Rinse hands with water



dry thoroughly with a single use towel



use towel to turn off faucet



...and your hands are safe.