



Executive Headteacher Mrs C Adams  
Headteacher Mr M Cunniffe  
northbrookpa.org

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

### Strep A Cases in School

We have been informed that a small number of children who attend Northbrook Primary Academy have been diagnosed with suspected Strep A. We have taken advice from the Cumbria & Lancashire & Health Protection Team (HPT) and they have informed us there is no need to adapt our daily practices, however, we wanted to inform parents about the signs, symptoms of scarlet fever and actions required if their child becomes ill.

Please remember that scarlet fever is usually a mild illness. However, 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,
- 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.

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 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.

**In school we will be taking the following simple measures** (which can be followed at home too)

- encouraging children to wash their hands more often.
- ensuring children do not share eating utensils.
- reminding and demonstrating to children the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' process.
- ensuring any breaks to the skin are covered with a waterproof plaster/dressing (this should be done at home before attending school)
- contacting parents promptly if children show the signs and symptoms of scarlet fever and encouraging parents to contact and make an appointment with their GP.

You can find more information in the guidance [Scarlet fever: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment](#), and further advice can also be obtained from the Health Protection Team on 0344 225 0562 during office hours.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at school if you have any further questions or queries. As, always, we will keep you updated if we receive any further advice.

Kindest regards,

*M Cunniffe*

Mr M Cunniffe  
Headteacher