



# St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

*Prepare the way of the Lord*

Rookery Avenue,  
Ashton-in-Makerfield,  
Wigan, WN4 9PF  
Telephone: 01942 728651  
Email: [office@arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:office@arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk)  
Web: <http://www.arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk>  
Headteacher: Mr. M. J. Dumican  
B.A. (Hons), PGCE, NPQH, MSc, MEd

8 December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

In the last week we have been made aware of two unrelated cases of Scarlet Fever and we would like to share with you the following guidance from the UKHSA:-

- Scarlet fever is caused by bacteria called Group A streptococci (Strep A). The bacteria usually cause a mild infection that can be easily treated with antibiotics.
- In very rare occasions, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A strep (iGAS).
- What are the symptoms of Strep A/scarlet fever?  
Strep A infections can cause a range of symptoms that parents/carers should be aware of, including:
  - Sore throat
  - Headache
  - Fever
  - A fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel
  - On darker skin the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel.
- For further information and images of what a Scarlet Fever can look like please click [here](#).

We would ask parents/carers **not** to send your child into school if you have been informed that your child has Strep A or Scarlet Fever. Please notify us of the reason for your child's absence as soon as possible.

Please reinforce our message in school about the importance of good hand and cough hygiene to help prevent the spread of infection, especially to use tissues when coughing or sneezing and to bin the tissue straight away afterwards. More information can be found [here](#).

If parents/carers suspect Scarlet Fever or Strep A infection, please call your GP or NHS 111 as prompt treatment with antibiotics can prevent serious illness and stop infections spreading.

Thank you for your continued support, it is always greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully

**M J DUMICAN**  
Headteacher