



Dear Parent/Carer,

You may have read that there have been some cases of illnesses including Scarlet Fever reported in the media and social media recently.

As a result of Covid we have a good system in BCP for reporting and managing cases.

Though national figures of these illnesses are higher than expected, there are processes in place in BCP and Dorset to help reduce the spread.

We have had a case reported in school and wanted you to be aware of what this means for you and your child.

Scarlet fever is caused by a bacteria called *group A streptococci*, or “group A strep”. It is very contagious for people who are in close contact with one another through infected droplets in coughs, sneezes, mucus and saliva. Like Covid hand hygiene, covering our mouths when coughing/sneezing and binning hankies etc all help. Typically, it causes a mild illness for most people however treatment with antibiotics is important to avoid complications.

Some symptoms of scarlet fever include:

- sore throat
- headache
- fever
- a fine, pinkish or red body rash that feels like sandpaper

You can read more about the symptoms of scarlet fever on the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website & see clinical photographs on the [NHS website](https://www.nhs.uk).

We would encourage you to keep children off school if poorly with similar symptoms and to contact your GP or NHS 111. Children with scarlet fever should stay home for 24 hours after starting antibiotics to avoid spreading infection to others. For Covid it remains 3 days after test or symptoms.

You can find more information about scarlet fever in The Spotty Book which has now been updated and taken on as national guidance. It is now incorporated into [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/health-protection-in-children-and-young-people-settings-including-education)

Winter is a time where viruses do spread and therefore we encourage good infection prevention control measures such as regular hand washing, covering your mouth when you cough and sneeze and to throw tissues in the bin when used.

For more information see: [UKHSA update on scarlet fever and invasive Group A strep - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ukhsa-update-on-scarlet-fever-and-invasive-group-a-strep)

Yours sincerely,

The Bourne Academy

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