



# FARNBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Farnborough Hill, Farnborough Village, Orpington, Kent BR6 7EQ

Telephone 01689 853295 Fax 01689 889286

Email: [admin.office@farnborough.bromley.sch.uk](mailto:admin.office@farnborough.bromley.sch.uk)

Website: [www.farnboroughprimary.co.uk](http://www.farnboroughprimary.co.uk)

Head Teacher: Ms P Farrow B.Ed Hons

National Leader in Education

22 May 2017

Dear Parents

## Scarlet Fever

We have had a case of Scarlet Fever within our school. Scarlet fever is a notifiable disease, and we would like remind you of the signs and symptoms and the immediate action to take if you suspect a case.

### Signs and symptoms of scarlet fever

Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes*, or group A streptococcus (GAS). The symptoms are non-specific in early illness and may include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours the characteristic red, generalised pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. On more darkly-pigmented skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present. Patients typically have flushed cheeks and pallor around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a 'strawberry' tongue. During convalescence the skin will start to peel at the tips of fingers and toes, less often over wide areas of the trunk and limbs. This infection can sometimes be confused with measles, glandular fever and slapped cheek infections.

### Complications of scarlet fever

Although scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, patients can develop complications such as an ear infection, throat abscess, pneumonia, sinusitis or meningitis in the early stages and acute glomerulonephritis (damage to the kidneys) and acute rheumatic fever (pain in the joints, chest pain and shortness of breath) at a later stage. Patients, or their parents, should keep an eye out for any symptoms which might suggest these complications and if concerned, advised to seek medical help as soon as possible.

### Action to take on suspicion of a case

If you suspect that your child has scarlet fever please contact your GP immediately.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Browne

Mrs L Ashley

Heads of School



National Support School  
designated by



National College for  
Teaching & Leadership

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