



Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

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Dear Parents and Carers of children in Year 2,

We have been informed that a number of children who are in Maple Class have been diagnosed with suspected or confirmed **scarlet fever or influenza (flu)**. Where both diseases are circulating at the same time there is a slight increased risk of more serious infection.

Influenza

Most children will have a mild illness and will recover at home without needing treatment. However, if your child has a complex medical history, which potentially increases their risk of severe disease (such as asthma or immunosuppression), it is important that your GP promptly assesses your child to see if they require prompt antiviral prophylaxis. If they develop any of the following symptoms: fever (38°C or greater) and flu-like symptoms (cough, sore throat, runny nose, limb/joint pain or headache), they will then advise whether your child should receive antiviral treatment.

Children with flu-like symptoms should stay home until they are well and no longer have a fever.

Scarlet fever

Scarlet fever is also a mild childhood illness but unlike influenza, it requires antibiotic treatment. Symptoms include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting, 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 your child has scarlet fever, you should:

- consult your GP (please remember to take this letter with you) or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible.
- make sure that your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor.
- Keep them at home, away from nursery, school or work until **at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment**, to avoid spreading the infection.

Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS)

The same bacteria which cause scarlet fever can also cause a range of other types of infection such as skin infections (impetigo) and sore throat. In very rare cases, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive group A strep (iGAS). Whilst still very uncommon, there has been an increase in iGAS cases this year, particularly in children under 10 years old. It is very rare for children with scarlet fever to develop iGAS infection.



Talk for Writing



As a parent, you should trust your own judgement.

Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable

Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

You can find more information on influenza and scarlet fever on **NHS choices**: www.nhs.uk

If your child does have symptoms it is essential that you see medical advice. If your child is given antibiotics over the weekend then please can you email the school office so we can update our records.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Gordon- Weeks

Acting Principal

