



Linguamarque
Bronze



Litcham Road, Great Dunham, Kings Lynn, PE32 2LQ

Tel: 01328 701357

Email: office@grd.unity-ed.uk

Web: www.greatdunham.norfolk.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Nour

Inspired to learn, motivated to achieve.

Monday 9th January 2023

Dear parents/carers,

As you may have seen in the media recently there have sadly been child deaths due to Strep A and Scarlet Fever and that winter illnesses continue to circulate at high levels. We want to reassure you that your child's and our staff's safety are of paramount importance and as such, we shall be following national guidance.

The latest UK HSA guidance states;

"Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes* (also known as group A *Streptococcus* [GAS]). These bacteria may be found on the skin, throat and other sites where they can live without causing problems. Under some circumstances GAS can cause non-invasive infections such as pharyngitis, impetigo and scarlet fever. Although scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, 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 and 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 school for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection

Complications

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.

You can find more information in the guidance regarding symptoms ,diagnosis and treatment at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/scarlet-fever-symptoms-diagnosis-treatment>

You can also avoid spreading infections by ensuring that your child/ren are aware and are encouraged to follow these precautions:

- Regular hand hygiene using soap and running water
- Use tissues to trap germs from coughs and sneezes
- Put used tissues in the bin as quickly as possible
- Get a flu jab for your child/ren if they are eligible

You can help to ensure that your child doesn't catch and spread illness in school or college by following the guidelines above and remaining vigilant for symptoms. We are also following these standard infection control procedures in our schools, in order to keep our schools and colleges open and protect the NHS. We would also wish to emphasise the importance of pupils attending school to maximise their potential from the educational provision available. All UET schools continue to support our children and families in successfully maintaining attendance at school but if you do have any questions, please contact Mrs Nour on 01328 701357.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Nour

Headteacher

