



Stockwell Primary School and Children's Centre

Achieving excellence together

13th December 2022

HP Zone Ref: 398495

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

RE: Scarlet Fever and Chickenpox

We have been informed that a number of children who attend Stockwell Primary School have been diagnosed with suspected **scarlet fever and chickenpox**.

We have contacted our local Health Protection team, who have provided us with the following advice to share with you.

Chickenpox

Chickenpox is a common childhood illness. It causes a rash of red, itchy spots that turn into fluid-filled blisters. They then crust over to form scabs, which eventually drop off. To prevent spreading the infection, keep children off nursery or school until all the spots have crusted over.

For most children, chickenpox is a mild illness that gets better on its own. But some children can become more seriously ill and need to see a doctor. Contact your GP straight away if your child develops any abnormal symptoms, for example:

- if the blisters on their skin become infected
- if your child has a pain in their chest or has difficulty breathing

Scarlet fever

Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes* or group A Streptococcus (GAS). It is also a mild childhood illness but unlike chickenpox, 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. The face can be flushed red but pale around the mouth. As the rash fades the skin on the fingertips, toes and groin area can peel. On darker skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, but it should feel like 'sandpaper'.

If you think your child, has scarlet fever:

- See your [GP or contact NHS 111](#) as soon as possible. It is also preferable that a throat swab is taken to confirm the diagnosis.
- Make sure that your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor/healthcare professional.
- Anyone with symptoms suggestive of scarlet fever should stay at home, away from school for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection.

BJS FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

Bonneville, Jessop & Stockwell Primary Schools

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It is important to note, that if your child has had chickenpox infection recently, then please remain vigilant for additional symptoms such as a persistent high fever, skin infections and swollen, painful joints. If you are concerned for any reason, then 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.

Further information on scarlet fever and chickenpox is also available via NHS Choices [Scarlet fever - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk) and [Chickenpox - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Zenia McIntosh
Acting Head of School

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