



## Caston Church of England Primary Academy

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Disney

The Street, Caston, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1DD

Tel: 01953 483304 Email: [office@caston.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@caston.norfolk.sch.uk) Web: [www.caston.norfolk.sch.uk](http://www.caston.norfolk.sch.uk)

7th December 2022

### Scarlet Fever/ Group A Streptococcus

Dear Parents/Carers,

You will no doubt be aware of reports on the news of cases of Scarlet Fever and Group A Streptococcus. Schools have received guidance information from the Local Authority and I am writing to share this with you and signpost where you can get further information if you wish to do so. The current information from UK Health and Security Agency (UKHSA) is that there is no evidence that a new strain is circulating. It says the increase is most likely related to high amounts of circulating bacteria and social mixing and lots of viruses that cause sore throats, colds and coughs circulating which should resolve without medical intervention.

Scarlet fever (sometimes called scarlatina) is an infectious disease caused by bacteria called Streptococcus pyogenes, or group A streptococcus (GAS). The same bacteria can also cause impetigo.

Scarlet fever is characterised by a rash, which usually accompanies a sore throat. Bacteria that cause the infection produce toxins (poisons), which cause the rash, a red and swollen tongue and flushed cheeks. The scarlet fever rash can be confused with measles.

Scarlet fever is mainly a childhood disease and is most commonly seen between the ages of 2 and 8 years. Although historically considered a dangerous disease, it is now much less serious. Since 2014, a rise in numbers of cases has been seen with 15,000 to 30,000 cases currently diagnosed each year in England.

Scarlet fever, is highly contagious and is spread by close contact with someone carrying the bacteria. It takes around 2 to 5 days to develop symptoms after exposure to these bacteria.

**If you think you or your child has scarlet fever, you should contact [NHS 111 online](#), or call NHS 111 or contact your GP.**

**Any children with suspected scarlet fever should stay at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.**



Diocese of Norwich  
Education and  
Academies Trust

---

## Caston Church of England Primary Academy

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Disney

The Street, Caston, Attleborough, Norfolk, NR17 1DD

Tel: 01953 483304 Email: [office@caston.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@caston.norfolk.sch.uk) Web: [www.caston.norfolk.sch.uk](http://www.caston.norfolk.sch.uk)

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/scarlet-fever-symptoms-diagnosis-treatment/scarlet-fever-factsheet>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-update-on-scarlet-fever-and-invasive-group-a-strep>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

Kind Regards

Mrs Sarah Disney  
Executive Head Teacher