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Dear Parents/Carers

We have been asked to circulate the information below by Public Health.

There is a **rise in cases of scarlet fever** in the North West so keep a lookout for symptoms and contact your GP if you suspect you or your child has the illness.

Symptoms include:

- a sore throat
- headache
- fever
- a characteristic fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel.

If signs of scarlet fever are suspected, it is important to contact your local GP or NHS 111.

The illness is usually mild but early treatment of scarlet fever with antibiotics is important as it helps reduce the risk of complications such as pneumonia and the spread of the infection to others.

Children or adults diagnosed with scarlet fever are advised to stay at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

Scarlet fever is highly contagious and spread by coughing and sneezing.

To limit the spread:

- wash your hands often
- do not share eating utensils with an infected person
- wash or dispose of handkerchiefs and tissues contaminated by an infected person
- be aware that people can catch scarlet fever by inhaling airborne droplets if someone with the illness coughs or sneezes in the air near them
- use a tissue to catch, bin and kill germs.

Kind regards,

Duncan Rose  
Headteacher

