

24th May 2022

Dear parent / guardian,

We have been informed that a small number of children who attend Outwood Primary Academy Greystone have been diagnosed with suspected scarlet fever and/or chickenpox.

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 nursery, school or work for **at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment**, to avoid spreading the infection.

Complications and Co-circulation

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 chickenpox, then they should avoid contact with other people and therefore not attend a childcare setting for at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over.

Outwood Grange Academies Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (No. 06995649)
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Additional Information

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.

Shingles is caused by the same varicella virus as **chickenpox**. A person with **shingles** is infectious to those who have not had chickenpox and should be excluded from education/childcare setting if they have a weeping rash that cannot be covered or until the blisters are dry and crusted over.

Impetigo is a skin infection that can be caused by the same bacteria that causes **scarlet fever**. If a child has suspected impetigo, they should seek medical attention, usually via their GP. Children with impetigo should be excluded from education or childcare settings until all sores or blisters are crusted over or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment.

You can find more information on www.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



Mrs E Abbott
Principal