



## Grand Avenue Primary & Nursery School

Grand Avenue  
Surbiton  
Surrey  
KT5 9HU

Tel: 020 8399 5344

Email: [office@grandavenue.kingston.sch.uk](mailto:office@grandavenue.kingston.sch.uk)

Web: [www.grandavenue.kingston.sch.uk](http://www.grandavenue.kingston.sch.uk)

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Dear Parent / Carer

### Elevated Levels of Scarlet Fever

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has informed the school that there are elevated levels of scarlet fever, particularly in young children.

*Whilst we are not aware of any cases at Grand Avenue Primary and Nursery School, we ask that you read this information regarding the symptoms and what to do if you believe your child may be affected.*

#### Signs and symptoms of scarlet fever

- Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by Streptococcus pyogenes, or group A streptococcus (GAS). The early symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting.
- After 12 to 48 hours the characteristic red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture.
- The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on darker skin, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present. Patients typically have flushed cheeks and pallor around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a 'strawberry tongue'. As the child improves peeling of the skin can occur.
- This Scarlet Fever Factsheet includes some useful information and images:  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

#### Infection Control Advice from UKHSA

Please continue to maintain good environmental, hand and respiratory hygiene. This blog may be useful: [5 ways to protect your under 5s this winter](#)

The UKHSA also recommends that:

- If your child has not had influenza vaccinations in line with the national schedule, you should consider they have one – especially if they are known to be in risk groups.
- That your child is up to date with recommended national childhood immunisations.

If you think your child has scarlet fever they should be clinically assessed by a GP. If scarlet fever is suspected, your child will be excluded from nursery / school for 24 hours after the commencement of appropriate antibiotic treatment.

These are preventative measures and we do appreciate your continued support. Should you have any queries, please contact me through the School Office.

Kind regards

Margaret Barrington Co-Headteacher



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