

13<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Re: Scarlet Fever & Head Lice

There have been two cases of scarlet fever within St Stephen's School and your child may have been exposed.

### What is scarlet fever?

Scarlet fever is a scattered red rash and high temperature caused by bacteria (Group A streptococci). Occasionally these bacteria can cause kidney or heart complications. Prompt treatment with an antibiotic usually prevents these complications. Treatment will also prevent spread to others.

### What are the symptoms of scarlet fever?

The illness often starts with a sore throat, headache and a high temperature (fever), with a rash developing 12 to 48 hours later. Red blotches are the first sign of the rash. These turn into a fine pink-red rash that feels like sandpaper to touch and looks like sunburn.

### What should I do if I think my child has it?

If your child develops any of these symptoms bring them to your GP for examination. Tell the doctor that another child in the school has scarlet fever.

### If my child has scarlet fever what should I do?

The doctor will prescribe an antibiotic for your child. It is important that your child takes the full course of medicine.

### Can my child stay in school?

Your child can return to school when they are well and have taken the antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours.

### What can I do to prevent spread of infection at home?

The bacteria are spread through contact with nose and mouth secretions so:

- Wash hands thoroughly after wiping nose and before preparing food
- Wash dishes well in hot soapy water
- Do not share toothbrushes, cups, straws, spoons, eating utensils, etc.



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Living the Olympic  
and Paralympic Values



## Head Lice

It has recently come to our attention that some children in the school have head lice.

Within schools at any one time, there will only be a small number of children with head lice. Infection levels remain fairly constant but if you inspect your child's hair at least once a week throughout the school year, we would be grateful.

Head lice do not always cause an itchy scalp (head), so many people will be unaware that they are infected. Sufferers can only develop an itchy scalp if they become sensitive to the louse saliva and this can take up to two months.

Treating head lice is not a problem.

For further advice consult your pharmacist or doctor. If you have access to the internet, you can obtain information from [www.headliceadvice.net](http://www.headliceadvice.net).

Please remember to inform the school office if your child has any medical conditions and to contact the school office on the first day of your child's absence.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Linda Campbell  
**HEADTEACHER**