Lanchester E.P. (Cont.) Primary School & Nursery

A Caring Community Where All Can Flourish

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have been informed that a small number of children who attend Nursery at Lanchester EP Primary School have been diagnosed with confirmed scarlet fever. 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.

Symptoms

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

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 an underlying condition which affects their immune system, you should contact your GP or hospital doctor to discuss whether any additional measures are needed.

Please don't be alarmed by this letter – we have been in close contact with the Health Protection Agency. However, we thought it was important to let you know and for you to be vigilant, and don't be alarmed if we send your child home to get checked out if they appear to have any of the symptoms.