

**Headteacher**

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14 February 2017

Dear Parents,

We have been informed that a number of children who attend Midhurst Rother College have been diagnosed with suspected scarlet fever, although none of the diagnosed children have siblings in our school. We have taken advice from Public Health England and would like to give you some more information about this infection.

**Scarlet fever**

Scarlet fever is a mild childhood illness which it requires antibiotic treatment. Symptoms include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting, 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. As the rash fades the skin on the fingertips, toes and groin area can peel.

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

You can find more information on NHS choices: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Mr John Galvin  
Headteacher