

AZBUKA Russia-English school and Nursery

6 December 2018

## RE Scarlet fever/update

*Dear Azbuka Parent / Guardian,*

We have been informed that 1 child has been diagnosed with scarlet fever and 1 with suspected scarlet fever.

We have contacted the HSC (the Public Health Agency) and received the full information, guidelines for the Nursery/School and advice for parents.

We have also taken extra precautions as a Nursery and school in order to minimise the spread of infection.

### **In brief:**

- It is a common infection in children
- Many educational settings are affected, London in particular, especially in winter months
- All parents should be aware of potential risks and if symptoms occur they should visit their GP asap, start the course of antibiotics (if needed) and stay at home for at least 24 hours. The child can return to school 24 hours after commencing appropriate antibiotics treatment.
- The infection is easily treated with antibiotics
- If the child is hospitalized please contact AZBUKA immediately
- No need for quarantine in this case, as it is considered to be a “normal” spread if infection during winter months in particular

In addition, we decided to take extra measures in order to minimise the spread of infection/s:

\*Yesterday we cleaned and disinfected the School and Nursery in particular

\*We spoke to the children (and staff) and reinforced the message of importance of hygiene.

*We would like to remind to all parents that hygiene is always taken very seriously at Azbuka. Children wash their hands (few times a day, after outings, before lunch, after toilet etc), the school and nursery are cleaned regularly (incl toilets, taps, all surfaces and the floor).*

*However, it is important to emphasise the importance of hygiene to all children in order to minimize the risks of infection.*

We are asking all parents to help us to minimise the spread of infection, so we can return to normal school life asap:

**examine** your child daily, **visit GP** immediately, **take this letter with you, stay at home** for at least 24 hours from the start of antibiotic treatment (if needed) and **notify the AZBUKA office** straight away if you suspect or has already been diagnosed with scarlet fever, suspected scarlet fever or any other infection. The parents should also speak to their children and reinforce the message and practice of HYGENE regularly.

**SCARLET FEVER - General information to all parents:**

The symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. This is followed by a fine red skin 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, has 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.
- It is also preferable that the patient has a throat swab to confirm the diagnosis.
- 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 if associated with scarlet fever. Parents of children who have recently had chickenpox should remain vigilant for symptoms such as a persistent high fever, skin infections and swollen, painful joints. 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. You can find more information in the attached FAQ sheet

Yours sincerely,

Maria Gavrilova  
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Azbuka School and Nursery