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Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to inform you of two illnesses that we have in our immediate school community. Both of these illnesses are classed as 'notifiable' and the relevant bodies, including the Health Protection Agency, have been informed.

This information is not intended to alarm you but as a parent/carer you are in a much better situation to check for any symptoms your child may begin to show.

#### Scarlet Fever

One child from Norwood Primary School has been reported as having Scarlet Fever. This is a contagious disease but is easily treatable by antibiotics.

Scarlet fever is caused by group A streptococci bacteria, and can affect people of any age. However, it is most common between the ages of six and 12. The fever was thought to be measles for years before a scientist in the 19th century discovered it stemmed from different bacteria.

The main symptoms include a sore throat and headache, fever, vomiting and swollen neck glands. The tongue develops a thick, white coating, which peels after four or five days, leaving it swollen with a red "strawberry" appearance.

Please follow the link for more information from the NHS website

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

#### Viral Meningitis

A staff member at Norwood School has suspected Viral Meningitis.

Viral meningitis is the most common and less serious type of meningitis. There are approximately 3,000 cases of viral meningitis reported in England and Wales every year, but experts believe the true number is much higher. This is because in many cases of viral meningitis the symptoms are so mild that they can often be mistaken for flu.

Viral meningitis is most common in young children and babies, especially in babies less than one year old.

Viral meningitis usually gets better by itself within a couple of weeks, without the need for specific treatment.

Information taken from the NHS website and further details can be found following the link.

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis/Pages/Introduction](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis/Pages/Introduction)

Should your child develop any of the symptoms please take the advice of your GP or in out of hours times contact the walk in centre on 01733 758555 or visit them at City Care Centre, Thorpe Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE3 6DB (noting that it has relocated and is no longer near Asda).

If you have any further questions please contact the school office.

Yours faithfully

Mrs D Reynolds

