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**Headteacher:** Mr J Parr BA Hons

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to let you know that we have been made aware of two (linked) cases of Scarlet Fever in our school community. As a school, we are of course aware of reports in the news about an infection called Strep A and Scarlet Fever and our understanding is currently that it is very rare for people to get extremely sick from these. Whilst we are waiting for official Department for Education guidance, we thought it would be a useful time for us all to remember some of the basic hygiene measures we were so familiar with during COVID that are generally helpful as this time of year. We also thought we would share with you some of the current Public Health advice.

Staff will be reminding pupils of the following measures and we would welcome you reinforcing these measures at home that will help reduce the spread of many infections, including scarlet fever, that are more common at this time of year.

Respiratory and cough hygiene. The old saying of “coughs and sneezes spread diseases” is a reminder of the importance of the following aspects:

- Cover nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing and sneezing, dispose of used tissue in a waste bin, and clean hands
- Cough or sneeze into the inner elbow (upper sleeve) if no tissues are available, rather than into the hand
- Keep hands away from your eyes, mouth, and nose after sneezing or coughing

Hand hygiene

- Wash hands more frequently with warm water and soap, as well as after using the bathroom and before eating
- Use hand sanitizer gel if it is difficult to wash with soap and water.

According to the UK Health & Safety Agency, *‘Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, but it is highly infectious. Therefore, look out for symptoms in your child, which include a sore throat, headache, and fever, along with a fine, pinkish, or red body rash with a sandpapery feel. On darker skin, the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel. Contact NHS 111 or your GP if you suspect your child has Scarlet fever, because early treatment of Scarlet fever with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications. If your child has Scarlet fever, keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.*

We will send more information as we receive it but, in the meantime, if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school reception as normal.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Parr  
Headteacher