



Dear Parents,

7<sup>th</sup> December 2022

We are aware of several confirmed cases of an infection called *Strep A* and *scarlet fever* in our school community. 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 at this time of year.

We will be reminding pupils of the following measures in school and we would welcome you reinforcing these measures at home that will help reduce the spread of germs and infections that are more common at this time of year.

### **Respiratory and cough hygiene.**

- 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

According to the UK Health & Security 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. 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 any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school reception as normal.

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs. C Arnold**  
**Headteacher**