

8<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **SCARLET FEVER AND STREP A**

The Government are working with the UK Health Security Agency closely monitoring the increased cases of Group A Streptococcus (Strep A) and Scarlet Fever in school age children.

UKHSA is reporting an increased number of cases of Group A Streptococcus compared to normal at this time of year. The government state that there is no evidence that a new strain is circulating and they believe it is more likely to be due to high amounts of circulating bacteria and social mixing.

We currently have 2 families with possible Scarlet Fever but this has not been confirmed by doctors. I have informed the UK Health Security Agency. Please see the attached letter from the UKHSA which clearly explains the signs and symptoms of Strep A and what actions you should take if your child becomes unwell.

### **What happens if there is an outbreak at the school?**

We will closely monitor cases at school and take advice from UKHSA. If we do have an outbreak we may have to consider cancelling school gatherings. Hopefully this won't be necessary.

**If there have been confirmed or suspected cases of scarlet fever in the school, there is no need for other children to stay at home if they are well.**

### **How can we help prevent the spread of Strep A?**

Strep A bacteria is spread through contact with nose and mouth secretions.

To prevent the spread of Strep A, UKHSA advises children, young people and staff to implement good hand and respiratory hygiene.

- Wash hands thoroughly after wiping noses
- Wash hands thoroughly using soap and hot water before preparing food
- Wash plates and dishes in hot soapy water
- Do not share cups, straws, spoons and eating utensils etc.
- Do not share toothbrushes

**It is extremely important that parents contact the school office between 8am and 9am if your child is unable to attend school and provide details of their illness.**

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Woolley

Headteacher