Thursday 8th December 2022

Dear Parent or Carer,

You will no doubt have seen the news regarding infectious diseases circulating at the moment, including Scarlet Fever and Strep A.

These viruses are common ones, especially amongst younger children, but invasive infection is still very rare and parents should not be overly worried as there are lots of bugs around at this time of year, including Strep A, which most adults and children recover from without intervention.

However, I want to reassure you that we are very vigilant in school and trained staff carefully triage all cases of illness. We ask you too to be aware of the signs and symptoms below.

**If you are ever unsure please contact NHS 111 or ring your GP**.

**General signs and symptoms to look out for include:**

**Streptococcus**

Sore throat, headache, fever, tonsillitis, swollen lymph glands in the neck, a fine pinkish or red rash.

**Scarlet Fever (caused by above)**

In addition to the symptoms above there is also a rash, flushing and a smooth, red, ‘strawberry’ tongue.

**Call 999 or go to A&E if:**

Your child’s skin, tongue or lips are blue

Difficulty breathing

Rash that doesn’t fade when you roll a glass over it

Child is floppy or unresponsive

**How can we prevent the spread of infectious diseases?**

The virus is generally spread by coughs and sneezes. It is important in school that everyone maintains good standards of hygiene:

* Use tissues
* Catch it, Kill it, Bin it
* Wash hands regularly
* Use hand sanitiser

If you are unsure whether your child is well enough to attend school or need some advice please do contact the school office and speak to the office staff or Mrs Stringer.

Mr J Bullock

Headteacher