

8th December 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I am sure you are all aware of the recent rise in cases of Group A Strep and scarlet fever infections, which has received wide publicity.

We are sharing the following information with all parents and staff of Bacon's College. This guidance was received from the **UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)**.

As noted from the UKHSA, if your child has diarrhoea, vomiting or a high temperature, then they **should not attend school** or mix with others outside of school, until they no longer have a high temperature and are well enough to attend. Please help us to ensure the spread of such illnesses is minimal.

## What are Scarlet Fever and Strep A?

Scarlet fever is caused by bacteria called Group A streptococci (Strep A). The bacteria usually cause a mild infection that can be easily treated with antibiotics.

In very rare occasions, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A strep (iGAS).

## What are the symptoms of Strep A/ Scarlet Fever?

Strep A infections can cause a range of symptoms that parents should be aware of, including:

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever
- 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

If a child becomes unwell with these symptoms, parents are advised to contact their GP practice or contact NHS 111 (which operates a 24/7 service) to seek advice.

If a child has scarlet fever, they should stay at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

Parents are encouraged to trust their own judgement and if their child seems seriously unwell call 999 or go to A&E if:

- a child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when a child breathes
- a child's [skin, tongue or lips are blue](#)
- a child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake.

Yours faithfully,



James Wilson  
Principal