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Dear Parents

Re: Measles

We have been informed by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) that you may have had contact with a person with measles within school. We are working closely with the West Midlands Health Protection Team at UKHSA, who have provided the following information.

Measles can be a serious disease. It can spread very quickly in places such as nurseries, schools or healthcare settings if people have not had a vaccine.

The best protection against measles is the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) or from 1 January 2026, the measles, mumps, rubella and varicella (MMRV) vaccination, depending on you or your child's age.

People in certain at-risk groups, including babies and small children, pregnant women, and people with weakened immunity, are at increased risk of serious illness if they catch measles. Anyone of any age, who has missed their MMR or MMRV vaccine can get measles.

Important: how to protect you and your family

Now is the time to check if you and your family have had **2 doses of the MMR or MMRV vaccine**.

- Vaccination with **TWO doses of MMR/ MMRV** is the only way to give people maximum protection against measles
- If you are not sure if you/your child/any family member needs an MMR/ MMRV vaccine, check their Red Book or contact your GP practice to check and /or book a vaccination. **The MMR/ MMRV vaccine is safe, effective and free.**
- **If you/your family have not had 2 doses you should contact your GP to arrange vaccination as soon as possible**
- For people who do not touch any pork products, **there is a version of the MMR vaccine, Priorix, which has no pork ingredients.** You can request Priorix from your GP.
- The MMR/ MMRV vaccine is given as part of the routine childhood immunisation programme,
- 1st dose should be given just after the child's first birthday
- 2nd dose at 3 years 4 months for MMR or 18 months for MMRV.
- However, **you can have the vaccine at any age.**

Head Teacher:
Amanda Bradley

What to do if you think you or your child has measles

- contact NHS111 or phone your GP surgery. If you do need to visit a GP or hospital, **you must call ahead** to let them know that it could be measles. The staff will make special arrangements to see you and/or your child so that, if they have measles, they won't pass it to other people.
- If you or your child has measles, you should stay off nursery/ school/ university/ work/ other group activities **until at least 4 days after the rash appears**, because you will still be infectious, which means you can spread measles to others.

About measles

Measles can spread easily from person to person. While most people get better within a couple of weeks, measles can cause serious illness and in rare cases it can be fatal. Vaccination with **two doses of MMR / MMRV** protects against measles.

The **first signs of measles** are:

- high temperature
- runny or blocked nose
- sneezing
- cough
- red, sore, watery eyes
- rash usually appears a few days after cold-like symptoms (sometimes starts around the ears before spreading to rest of the body)

Further information about the MMR and MMRV vaccines can be found by visiting

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukhsa-privacy-notice/ukhsa-privacy-notice>

Yours faithfully,

Amanda Bradley
Headteacher