



18 April 2024

Dear Parent/ Carer,

You may have seen in the press that there is growing concern regarding the number of cases of Measles being reported. While for many years Measles was thought to have been virtually eradicated as a result of the long-standing vaccination programme the fall in uptake of the vaccination over recent times means that the herd immunity gained from the high coverage of vaccination has been reduced.

The World Health Organisation indicates that ~95% vaccination coverage is needed in the case of Measles in order to maintain herd immunity. At present in the UK a number of regions (including most of London and Kent) have dropped significantly below this level. This means that even those who are themselves vaccinated are also at risk, given no vaccination is 100% effective in any given individual.

While we can confirm that at present, we have not been made aware of any confirmed or suspected cases of Measles within our school community we wanted to take this opportunity to raise your awareness of the issue and ask for your support and assistance in the following ways:

- If you observe the symptoms of Measles (cold-like symptoms; white spots in the mouth; a skin rash which often starts on the face/behind the ears before spreading) in your child please seek medical advice and keep the school informed; and
- If your child is not currently vaccinated please consider contacting your GP to arrange for this to take place.

At present we are not aware of an outbreak in the Dartford area, so this window of opportunity is important to take advantage of to help place all of our children in the safest and strongest position possible to avoid what can be the most severe health outcomes from Measles which sadly can claim lives and cause permanent life-changing injury.

If you would like any further information then please see the information from the UKHSA by following this link: [What to do if you think your child has measles and when to keep them off school – The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk/2024/04/18/what-to-do-if-you-think-your-child-has-measles-and-when-to-keep-them-off-school/)

We will keep you updated of any concerns should the need arise.

Kind regards,

Mr S Harrington
Headteacher