



St Paul's Road, Nuneaton, Warwickshire. CV10 8HW

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Dear Parents/Carers

The West Midlands Health Protection Team (Public Health) put on a meeting focused on Measles for school/setting leaders as we are seeing that cases are increasing across the West Midlands. There are now confirmed cases in Warwickshire.

Please may I thank all families for keeping your children off if they are unwell, and for keeping Nursery informed about why your child is absent. There are currently many different illnesses circulating - so please give your child/children time to get well before returning to school if they are poorly. We are currently putting in place Infection Control Measures at Nursery to reduce infection including enhanced cleaning and hygiene processes for all children and staff members. **We currently have no confirmed cases of measles at our Nursery School.**

Measles Information

- It is a respiratory virus, highly contagious
- People with weakened immune systems, infants under 12 and unimmunised (or not had measles) pregnant women are more at risk
- people can get extremely poorly with measles
- MMR vaccine is safe and does prevent measles
- The virus spreads very easily in unvaccinated people
- There is an incubation period of 10 to 12 days (can be 7 to 21 days for some)
- Infectious period is 4 days before rash and 4 days after rash. Which equates to 9 days - with day of rash being day zero.
- The most common symptoms prior to the rash breaking out is - high fever, cough, runny nose, conjunctivitis.
- Around day 4 the rash will appear - it usually starts on face (behind ears and on hairline). Rash will then move to trunk of body, then rest of body.
- The rash is not usually itchy and it does not blister.
- The rash usually lasts 3-7 days.
- The rash can look different on different skin tones.
- Health protection team promote everybody having their MMR vaccination, if you have not been vaccinated or are unsure of your measles status please speak to your GP.

- Children are offered a MMR dose 1 at about 1 year and dose 2 at about 3 years and 4 months. It will be recorded in your child's red book and the two doses are required to reduce the risk of measles.
- GP can offer a pork free vaccination if required.
- We need a 95% uptake of vaccine in a community to prevent an outbreak.
- In the West Midlands we currently have the lowest uptake of vaccinations that they have seen in a while.
- **Cases are increasing daily across the West Midlands.**
- The largest two age groups of people being infected currently with measles is 0-4 and 7-11 year olds.
- They do not offer the MMR to pregnant women. They advise that pregnant women that are not immunised/or not had measles to talk to HV/GP if a case is confirmed and you have been in contact with the person.
- If the child /person has symptoms of measles - it will be very unlikely that it is measles if the child/person is double vaccinated. The GP will decide if they believe it is measles and a further test will be completed if required to confirm.

Next Steps for Our School Community

- If your child is unwell or their changes to her health e.g. has a temperature - please keep them at home until they are well.
- If they do not improve within the usual time frame of a common cold seek GP or 111 advise.
- If a rash appears with the illness phone the GP for advice.
- If we have a confirmed case myself and the Senior leadership team will work with the Health Protection Agency to put a risk assessment in place - which will look at factors such as isolation time frames for the confirmed cases and siblings etc.

For further information please see the following link to the NHS guidance:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR) Vaccine:

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

Kind regards



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