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Dear Parents/Carers,   23 January 2024

As you may have seen in the news, measles cases are increasing across the country as vaccination rates drop. Measles is a highly infectious disease, spreading quickly from person to person, especially in schools. A child with measles will infect almost all unprotected children they have contact with.

Since the end of 2017 there has been an increase in measles globally which has affected the UK. This has resulted in some spread into wider communities, in particular in under vaccinated groups. Measles can be a very serious disease, leading to ear and chest infections, fits, diarrhoea, and damage to the brain. Measles can be fatal.

Children are at risk of measles if they have not had the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination. Two doses of MMR vaccine are needed to get the best protection.

Timing of MMR vaccinations
The best times are between 12 and 13 months of age and again at 3 years and 4 months, with one dose on each occasion. **But it is never too late to receive the vaccine.** A child can be vaccinated at any age with 2 doses one month apart.

If your child has not had the vaccination and you would like to arrange it, please contact your GP surgery.

Symptoms of Measles
The earliest signs of measles infection include:
*High fever
*Runny nose
*Cough
*Red and watery eyes
*Koplik spots (small red spots with bluish-white centres) inside the mouth
After several days, a rash appears, usually on the face and upper neck. The rash spreads, eventually reaching the hands and feet and lasts 5 to 6 days before fading. Measles is commonly confused with other infections that can lead to a rash.

For more information about measles and MMR see the NHS Website.
Kind regards,

JGreathead

Mrs J Greathead
Headteacher