

10<sup>th</sup> October 2023



Dear Families,

As you are probably aware, there has been a national increase in cases of measles.

A few facts about measles:

- Over 102,000 children in England are starting primary school this term (aged 4-5 years old) at risk of catching measles and becoming seriously unwell.
- Nine out of ten children can catch measles from an infected classmate.
- One in five children will require a hospital visit if they become unwell with measles.
- Measles cases are rising across England and are over double the figures from last year.
- One in 15 children develop serious complications from a measles infection, which can include meningitis and blindness.
- There is no medical treatment for measles; vaccination is the best protection against becoming seriously unwell.
- The Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine is safe and has been used since the early 1980s.
- Over 20 million cases of measles have been prevented since the start of measles vaccination in the UK. Over 4,500 lives have been saved as a result (81 lives per year).
- MMR vaccination is free on the NHS with the first dose being offered when a child is one year and the second at 3 years and 4 months old. This provides long lasting protection against measles, mumps and rubella which can cause long term health conditions such as blindness and asthma.
- The evidence is clear; there is no link between the MMR vaccine and autism.

Measles can be very serious for some people and can lead to sepsis, but the good news is that it you can be avoided it by getting a vaccination. [Measles - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them)

**For more information on the NHS vaccination schedule, please visit:**

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them>

If your child has missed their first or second dose of MMR vaccine or If you're not sure if you have been vaccinated, you can check your records on the NHS app or you can check your children's vaccination record in their red book. Alternatively, you can check with your GP.

If you or your family have not been vaccinated it is not too late. Contact your GP and they will book you in for a first dose followed by the second dose 2 months later to ensure you are fully protected. Remember "Prevention is better than the cure"

Please do contact the School Nursing team at school if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your support.

*Sara Hill*

Sara Hill  
School Nurse

Registered Charity: 529132  
CEO/Executive Principal: Sue Ackroyd

**Phone**  
01484 710123

**Email**  
[general@thesmithfoundation.org.uk](mailto:general@thesmithfoundation.org.uk)  
**Website**  
[www.thesmithfoundation.org.uk](http://www.thesmithfoundation.org.uk)

**Address**  
The William Henry Smith School & Sixth Form  
Boothroyd Lane, Brighouse  
West Yorkshire, HD6 3JW

