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18th March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

**Re: Important: Meningococcal Disease Information (Please Read All Pages)**

You may have heard or read about recent outbreaks of Meningitis in Kent. Yesterday, I attended a briefing with KCC and the UK Health Security Agency. Even though it is extremely rare for children of primary age to develop this disease, I do feel it prudent to provide some factual information. **Please note: there is no reason for you to make any change in the school routine and no reason for children to be kept at home.**

Meningitis is when bacteria reach the meninges (the lining around the brain and spinal cord) and cause dangerous swelling. Septicaemia is when bacteria enter the bloodstream and cause blood poisoning. Both forms of meningococcal disease can trigger sepsis – an overwhelming and life-threatening immune response to infection which can lead to organ failure.

**Preventing the spread of meningococcal disease**

The best way to stop the disease spreading is by giving antibiotics to the very close contacts of the patient with the illness. That usually means that only people who live in the same house as the sick child need treatment. School contacts are only very rarely at risk.

**Some common signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease**

High temperature	Rapid breathing
Vomiting or diarrhoea and stomach cramps	Joint or muscle pain
	Cold hands and feet
Severe headache	Pale blotchy skin
Stiff neck	Confusion and/or irritability
Dislike of bright light	Drowsiness or difficult to wake
Rash or bruising rash	Seizures or fits

**One or more of these symptoms may develop and they can appear in any order.**

Meningococcal disease can be hard to identify at first because it can be like a bad case of flu. However, anyone affected with meningococcal disease will usually become seriously ill within a few hours. You should keep checking your child if they are unwell and contact your GP (family doctor) or NHS 111 for advice if you have any concerns.

Stagshaw Close, Postley Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6TL





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If you become worried about your child's condition, particularly if they are getting worse, seek medical help **urgently** at the closest A&E Department or by dialling 999.

**Be watchful** and use your instincts. Early treatment can be lifesaving.

Further information on meningococcal disease is available from:

- The Meningitis Research Foundation, [www.meningitis.org](http://www.meningitis.org) telephone: 0808 800 3344
- Meningitis Now, [www.meningitisnow.org](http://www.meningitisnow.org) telephone: 0808 80 10 388 helpline email address: [helpline@meningitisnow.org](mailto:helpline@meningitisnow.org)

KCC is in communication with the UKHSA South East Health Protection Team and the school will act immediately on any advice they provide.

Yours faithfully,

Mathew Currie  
Headteacher

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