



ELAINE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Sarah Martin
Elaine Avenue, Rochester, Kent, ME2 2YN
T: 01634 294 817

office@inspireelaine.co.uk
www.elaine.medway.sch.uk

23rd January 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope this letter finds you well. In light of recent news coverage regarding measles we wanted to share some important information with you to ensure the health and well-being of our school community is supported.

Measles is a highly contagious infection that can lead to serious complications. Studies indicate that 9 out of 10 unvaccinated children are at risk of contracting measles if a classmate is infected.

The most effective preventive measure against measles is the MMR vaccine (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella, also known as German Measles). Typically administered at 1-year-old and again at three years old, the two doses offer lifetime immunity.

A shortfall in the number of MMR vaccines administered nationally, particularly in London, has been noticed. If you are uncertain about your child's vaccination status, please check their red book or contact your GP surgery for clarification.

If your child needs to catch up on vaccinations, it can be done at any time at your GP practice, and appointments with nurses are available, making it a convenient and cost-free service provided by the NHS.

Measles often begins with cold-like symptoms, followed by a rash a few days later. Small spots in the mouth may also develop. For detailed information on measles signs and symptoms, please refer to the NHS website at www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles.

Should you suspect your child has measles, please call 111 or inform your GP practice, which may conduct a phone appointment due to the highly contagious nature of the virus. **It's crucial not to attend nursery, school, work, or medical facilities to prevent the spread.** Additionally, avoid close contact with infants, pregnant individuals, and those with weakened immune systems, as they are more vulnerable to measles.

If your child is diagnosed with measles, it is essential for them to stay off nursery or school and you must notify the school. If there are other unvaccinated children who live in the house, they should also isolate in case they are infectious.

For further information on health and well-being, the www.nhs.org website is a valuable resource. To learn more about measles and the MMR vaccine, please visit the following pages:

- Measles: www.nhs.uk/measles
- MMR vaccine: www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Wishing you and your family continued good health.

Yours sincerely

S Martin

Mrs S Martin
Headteacher