



## ROSSETT ACRE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pannal Ash Road, Harrogate HG2 9PH

Telephone: 01423 561579

e-mail: [office@rap.rklt.co.uk](mailto:office@rap.rklt.co.uk)

website: [www.rossettacre.n-yorks.sch.uk](http://www.rossettacre.n-yorks.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Corrine Penhale

Deputy Headteacher: Kate Woodcock

*Our school:*

*'Excellence and happiness for all'*



Charity No.1048680

21 March 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to advise you that there is a UK wide increase in the number of confirmed cases of children with measles. Measles is a very infectious virus that can spread from person-to-person quickly, especially in education and childcare settings.

There's no specific medical treatment for measles, so it's important to get vaccinated as it's the best protection against becoming seriously unwell. Your child is at risk of measles if he or she hasn't had the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination. Two doses of MMR vaccine are needed to get the best protection. If you are unsure if you or your child has had 2 doses of the MMR vaccine, contact your GP to arrange vaccination. If you have missed a dose you can still be vaccinated at any age.

Those most at risk include:

- People who have not had 2 doses of the MMR vaccine
- People with a weak immune system
- Pregnant women
- Children aged under 12 months old

Measles usually starts with cold-like symptoms, followed by a rash a few days later. If your child has been vaccinated, it's very unlikely that they have measles. Symptoms include:

- a high temperature
- a runny or blocked nose
- sneezing
- a cough
- conjunctivitis (red, sore, watery eyes)
- small white spots (Koplik spots) inside the cheeks
- a rash usually appears 2 to 4 days after the cold-like symptoms started. The rash starts on the face and behind the ears before spreading to the rest of the body. This can look different depending on skin tone.

Please be vigilant for these symptoms. If you or your child starts to display them, please follow these steps:

1. You should speak to your GP or NHS 111 if you or your child get a high temperature with a cough, runny nose, sore red eyes or rash. You should try to call your GP or NHS 111 before visiting them in person. This is to avoid spreading measles to others.



2. If they confirm that your child has measles, do not send them to school for at least 4 days from the onset of the rash and avoid close contact with babies, unvaccinated children/adults and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system
3. inform Ms Macnair/Mrs Misseldine (school office) immediately so that we can contact other families to let them know their child has been in contact with the infection, and what their next steps should be.

If there is a confirmed case at this school, we will notify the parents and carers of those that would likely have been in contact with that person and provide further information of what to do next.

### **When can you return to normal activities if you have measles?**

Someone who has measles can spread the infection in the 4 days before they get the rash. Once they have a rash, they can still spread the infection for another 4 days.

If someone is thought to have measles, they should stay away from their education or childcare setting, or work, for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with infants under 12 months, people who are pregnant and people with weakened immune systems.

Please be vigilant and help us to reduce the spread of a potentially harmful virus. If you are concerned about your child's health or would like more information please visit [www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles).

Kind Regards,



Corrine Penhale  
Headteacher  
Rossett Acre Primary School