



Executive Headteacher: Ms Y Nunn BA (Ed) Hons NPQH

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Fitzgerald Avenue  
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Dear Parents and Carers

Confirmed Meningitis Outbreak in Canterbury - Information for Hampton Primary School Families.

You may have seen recent reports regarding cases of meningococcal meningitis affecting people in Canterbury. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) confirmed today that there has been an outbreak of invasive meningococcal disease in the Canterbury area, with 13 cases identified since Friday 13 March. Two people have sadly died, and a number of others are seriously ill in hospital. The outbreak has been linked to a social venue in Canterbury.

I know that this will be very concerning for you as parents and carers so I am writing to provide you with information about the disease and to ensure that our families have accurate information. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has stated that there is no reason for you to make any change to your school routine or for your child to be kept at home. At this point there have been no confirmed cases at Hampton.

Meningococcal disease can progress very quickly, but it is treatable with antibiotics if caught early. It is essential that you are aware of the symptoms.

Key symptoms include:

- A high fever
- A severe or worsening headache
- A stiff neck
- Sensitivity to bright light
- Drowsiness, confusion, or difficulty waking
- Nausea and vomiting
- Cold hands and feet, limb pain, or pale and mottled skin
- A rash of red/purple spots or blotches that does not fade when you press a glass against it

The glass test:

Press the side of a clear glass firmly against the rash. If the spots do not fade and you can still see them through the glass, this may be a sign of meningococcal septicaemia. Call 999 immediately. On darker skin tones, check paler areas such as the palms of the hands, soles of the feet, inside the eyelids, or the roof of the mouth.

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The symptoms can appear in any order, may not all be present, and can initially resemble a bad cold or flu. However, anyone affected with meningococcal disease will usually become seriously unwell within a few hours.

What to do:

If your child has symptoms — particularly a combination of fever, headache and stiff neck, or a rash that does not fade — call 999 or go to your nearest A&E immediately.

Do not wait for all symptoms to appear.

Do not wait to see if they get better.

Early treatment can be lifesaving.

If your child does not have symptoms but you are concerned, you can call NHS 111 for advice.

Further information:

NHS meningitis symptoms page:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis/symptoms/>

GOV.UK meningitis guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/meningitis-signs-and-symptoms-poster>

UKHSA is leading the public health response to this outbreak and is working with the NHS to identify and treat close contacts.

If we receive any information that is relevant to our school, we will share it with you immediately.

I understand that this will be worrying for many families. While cases such as this remain rare, awareness of the symptoms and acting quickly are the best protection. If you do have a confirmed case then please contact the school office so that we can take the necessary action to keep our community safe.

Kind regards

Ms Nunn  
Head Teacher