



Ashley Junior School

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23rd January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

A message sent on behalf of the Department for Education

You will have seen the news regarding the rise in cases of measles in London and the large outbreaks in the West Midlands.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has now declared a national incident in order to focus actions to limit the spread. Further outbreaks of measles will spread to other towns and cities unless urgent action is taken to increase Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination uptake in areas at greatest risk. Children who get measles can be very poorly and some will suffer life changing complications.

To support this incident the Department of Education (DfE) has published: **What to do if you think your child has measles and when to keep them off school** guidance for parents and for schools.

UKHSA have stated that measles is not currently circulating in the south-east, there are cases in London and a sustained outbreak in the West Midlands (specifically Coventry and Birmingham but now in all local authority areas in the region) but at the moment in the SE, rashes are more than likely to be for other reasons (particularly in children). However being prepared is important.

At a national level UKHSA are working on an outbreak pack for, similar to the packs for scarlet fever and gastric illness. We will cascade this when it is published.

Kind regards

School Office