



Blandford St. Mary
CE Primary School

'Let all that you do be done in love'

'Love, Hope, Respect, Perseverance, Responsibility'

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Important Health Information: Meningitis Awareness

We are writing to share some important health information following recent news reports of a number of meningitis cases in the UK. While the outbreak is currently localised to Kent, we are sharing this guidance with you as a precautionary measure.

Meningitis is a rare but serious infection that can develop quickly. Early symptoms can sometimes feel similar to common illnesses such as flu. These may include:

- Sudden onset of high fever and severe headache
- Stiff neck and dislike of bright light
- A rash that does not fade when pressed with a glass
- Confusion, extreme drowsiness, or cold hands and feet
- Vomiting, joint pain, or seizures

In some cases, a rash may appear that does not fade when pressed, but it is important to note that a rash does not always appear.

Health guidance is very clear: Symptoms can appear in any order and may initially resemble flu. If you are concerned about your child, trust your instincts and seek medical advice urgently. Meningitis can become serious very quickly, but prompt treatment is highly effective.

For full and up-to-date information, including a complete list of symptoms and what to do, please visit the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis/symptoms/>

At this time, there is no cause for alarm, but being informed and vigilant is the best way to keep everyone safe.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Rosaleen Beaver
Headteacher