

Kindness

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17 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to share important information following reports of an outbreak of meningococcal disease in Kent. We understand that this news may be worrying, and we want to ensure that all families have clear and up-to-date guidance.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is currently investigating 13 confirmed cases of meningococcal disease in the Canterbury area. This outbreak has been identified as being caused by Meningococcus B (MenB).

Meningococcal disease does not spread easily. It usually requires prolonged, close contact, such as living in the same household, long periods of close physical contact, or **sharing items like vapes**.

UKHSA will contact any school directly if specific public-health actions are required. We have not been contacted at this time.

Students should continue to attend school as normal.

Signs and symptoms to look out for:

Meningococcal disease can develop quickly. Please seek urgent medical help if you notice a combination of the following in your child or yourself, with symptoms developing at a rapid rate:

- A rash that does not fade when pressed with a glass
- Sudden high fever
- Severe, worsening headache
- Stiff neck
- Vomiting and diarrhoea
- Joint or muscle pain
- Dislike of bright lights
- Very cold hands and feet
- Seizures
- Confusion or unusual behaviour
- Extreme sleepiness or difficulty waking

More guidance and support is available at:

- NHS Meningitis Information: www.nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis/



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- Meningitis Research Foundation: www.meningitis.org | Helpline: 080 8800 3344
- Meningitis Now: www.meningitisnow.org | Helpline: 0808 80 10 388 | helpline@meningitisnow.org

We understand how concerning this news may be, and we will share further updates if advised by UKHSA. Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our school community safe.

Kind regards



Mrs F May
Headteacher

