



16.03.2026

Information for Families – Bacterial Meningitis Cases in Canterbury

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may have seen recent media reports about cases of bacterial meningitis in the Canterbury area. We are writing to reassure families and to share clear information and guidance.

At present, public health advice indicates that the overall risk to the wider community remains low. There is no indication that schools locally need to take any additional measures beyond normal health precautions.

We are in contact with relevant guidance from NHS England and UK Health Security Agency, and we will continue to monitor any updates. If any specific action were required for our school community, we would of course inform families immediately.

Meningitis is uncommon, but it is important that parents and carers know the symptoms so that medical advice can be sought quickly if needed.

Common symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Neck stiffness
- Sensitivity to light
- Vomiting
- Drowsiness or difficulty waking
- Cold hands and feet, limb pain, pale or mottled skin
- A rash that does not fade when pressed (not always present)

Symptoms can appear in any order and may develop quickly.

If your child shows any symptoms that concern you, please seek medical advice immediately by:

- contacting NHS 111,
- speaking to your GP, or
- attending A&E in an emergency.

Trusted guidance for parents can be found on the NHS website:

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

Please be reassured that situations like this are monitored closely by public health teams, and the current advice is that the risk to the wider public remains low.

If we receive any updated guidance that affects our school community, we will communicate with you promptly.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alistair". The script is cursive and fluid.

Alistair Hammond
Headteacher