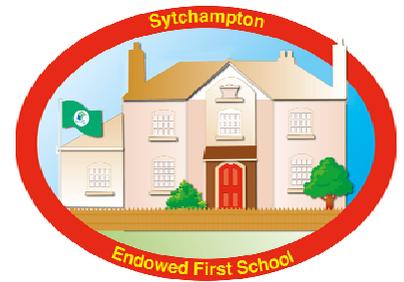


Sytchampton Endowed First School

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Dear Parents

IMPORTANT HEALTH ALERT:

This information was brought to our attention at 2pm on Wednesday 24th July by Health Services and because of the timing we felt this was the only way we could communicate to you. It is important that you are all aware, but would like to highlight that this is a very uncommon illness. Please read the statement from Health Services below and see the document on the Policies and Documents page of our website for further information.

“A pupil in the Reception Class at school has been admitted to hospital with an infection with the meningococcal bacteria (the “meningitis bug”). The pupil has responded well to treatment and is likely to be home very soon.

The meningococcal organism is commonly carried in the nose and throat, particularly by children, teenagers and young adults, without causing illness. It is a relatively uncommon but important cause of illness, which when it occurs is most often seen in young children and teenagers. The vast majority of cases that occur are sporadic i.e.; “one-offs” not related clearly to other cases.

Though the organism can be passed to others, close contact for long periods are usually needed for any significantly increased risk of spreading the germs. Even in those contacts the risk of illness is very low. In the majority of cases evidence for any increased risk only applies to regular contacts in a "household" setting. In this case, family and contacts have been identified by the local Public Health department and offered any needed further follow up and treatment.

There is no reason for any pupil to have any medicine or to see their family doctor unless of course the child is unwell and is taken to the doctor in the normal way. Most children will have had their meningococcal C vaccination (this has been a routine baby vaccination for some years now) and this protects against one common strain of this illness, but not unfortunately all. There is no need (or further benefit) for any child to have any further vaccinations if they have had their recommended jabs. “

It is still important that all parents be aware of the signs and symptoms of this disease. The leaflet provided on our Policies and Documents page gives information on the illness that is useful for all parents. The helpline number on the leaflet gives access to experienced nurses who can advise any parents.

The pupil concerned is making good progress, and we would like to wish them a speedy recovery.

Yours Sincerely
Mrs S Williams
Headteacher



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE