

ROKEBY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Thursday 21st December 2023

A Note from Mrs Allan

I would like to firstly say a HUGE well done to all of our children for a great half term. They have worked hard and tried to be safe, respectful and ready.

I would also like to say a HUGE thank you to all of our wonderful staff, who work with our children everyday, to ensure the very best for them.

Finally, thank you to all of our families, for your support. Have a very Merry Christmas and we will see you in the new year!



Our Festive Fun...

Our final week has been full of festive activities. Nursery have been using their fine motor skills in an interactive, decorate the tree game.

They dragged and placed the decorations onto the Christmas tree. After school club made their own snow globes using old jars and figurines.

Years 1,2 and 3 went to see the Nativity! performance on Tuesday. They had a wonderful time at the show which surpassed everyone's expectations.

Christmas parties were in full swing across all the classes. It was lovely to see all the children getting into the festive spirit and enjoying time together.



Attendance

Attendance for last week was **90.4%**. Well done to **Year 3** for having the best attendance.



A big **Thank You** to all of the Rokeby families for their support this year. The first term has flown by and we look forward to more exciting learning after the Christmas break.

Another big **Thank You** to our PTA who organised and ran our Christmas fair this year.

Important Dates

- 8th January—Teacher Training Day
- 9th January—First Day Back
- 12th-16th February—February Half Term
- 18th and 19th March—Parents Evening
- 25th March to 5th April—Easter Holidays
- 6th May—Public Bank Holiday, No School
- 21st May—Open Evening
- 24th May—Teacher Training Day
- 27th-31st May—May Half Term
- 10th July—School Induction Day
- 18th July—Last Day of Term for Children
- 19th July—Teacher Training Day

Briefing for all staff working in schools and/or early years settings: Measles and the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine

There has been an increase in measles cases across the West Midlands including recent cases in Birmingham, Coventry, and Solihull. Before we reach the end of the school term, we wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of:

- the signs and symptoms of measles
- the importance of the MMR vaccine
- what action to take if you have a suspected case within your setting.

What is measles and what are the symptoms?

Measles is a highly infectious viral illness and spreads very easily. It can cause serious complications such as blindness, pneumonia and meningitis and can be fatal. Young babies, people who have weakened immunity (are immunosuppressed) or pregnant are at higher risk of complications. Measles is a preventable disease; two doses of the measles mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine provides full protection.

Measles symptoms to be aware of include:

- A non-itchy, blotchy red brown rash. This usually appears a few days after cold-like symptoms (sometimes starts around the ears before spreading to the rest of the body). The rash can be harder to see on darker skin tones.
- High temperature (fever)
- Cold like symptoms such as runny or blocked nose, coughing, sneezing
- Red, sore, watery eyes
- Small white spots appearing inside the cheeks and on the back of lips (for a few days)

Anyone who contracts measles is infectious for four days before any rash appears and for at least four days after the onset of the rash.

What to do with a suspected case of Measles

Children or staff or who have signs or symptoms of measles should be asked to not attend school, college or nursery as measles is highly infectious. They are advised to phone their GP practice or NHS 111 for advice.

After contacting the GP or NHS111, individuals should try to rest and stay at home. If **they do need to visit a GP or hospital, they must call ahead to let them know that it could be measles** - the service will prepare for their arrival to help prevent spread and keep others safe.

The individual needs to be excluded from school/college/ nursery until **4 days** after the onset of the rash.

If staff are unvaccinated, they can make an appointment with their GP practice to get up to date with MMR vaccines. This is especially important when measles is circulating, because any adult or child who has not had **at least one dose of MMR** and comes into contact with a person with measles will have to be **excluded from early years and school settings for 21 days**.

If your setting has a suspected or confirmed case of measles, please contact UK Health Security Agency West Midlands (UKHSA) on 0344 225 3560 at the earliest opportunity. UKHSA will lead on managing cases and outbreaks.

Further information about managing outbreaks can be found here in UKHSA guidance.

[Guidance: Managing outbreaks in schools, childcare & other educational settings](#)

[Guidance: Managing specific infectious diseases: A - Z](#)

MMR vaccine

The MMR vaccine is the best way of preventing an outbreak and protecting the most vulnerable individuals in an early years or school community. The MMR vaccine is free of charge, safe, effective and is offered twice in childhood - at 1 year of age and as a pre-school booster at 3 years and 4 months. However, you can have the vaccine at any age. Two doses of the vaccine provide the best protection.

Uptake of the MMR vaccine has declined over the years which means more of the population are potentially vulnerable to catching measles. For this reason, we are encouraging **all staff** who work in early years, school and college settings to check with their GP if they have had two doses of MMR vaccine and to get vaccinated if not. The vaccination is provided free of charge to all by the NHS.

Did you know?

- One person infected by measles can infect 9 out of 10 unvaccinated close contacts.
- Measles can be a serious illness and sometimes have fatal consequences especially for those people who are at higher risk of complications. High risk groups include those who are immunocompromised or pregnant and young babies under 1 year old.

Additional information about measles and vaccination

- For more information about measles, visit the [NHS.UK website here](#).
- To find out more about childhood vaccinations, visit the [NHS.UK website here](#)
- UKHSA have developed a leaflet on measles (in range of languages). You can download the English and translated versions of this leaflet using the link [Measles – don't let your child catch it leaflet for schools and early years settings](#)

Information provided by Public Health, Warwickshire County Council -December 2023

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