



Fulford School

Fulfordgate, Heslington Lane, Fulford, York YO10 4FY
Telephone York (01904) 633300 Facsimile: (01904) 666400
Email: office@fulford.york.sch.uk
Website: www.fulford.york.sch.uk



Headteacher: Ms. L. Savage, BA, NPQH
Deputies: Mr D. Bodey BSc, Mr. T. Johnson, BA

30th January 2015

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you that a child attending Fulford School has been diagnosed as having probable meningococcal infection (meningitis/septicaemia).

Meningococcal bacteria are carried in the back of the throat of about one in ten people at any one time but only rarely cause illness. Most people who carry the bacteria become immune to them. The bacteria do not spread easily. However those who have had prolonged close contact with a person with the illness are at slightly greater risk of getting ill. These contacts of the child have been identified and given antibiotics. At the present time no further action is necessary and there is no need for your child to have antibiotics or vaccine.

I would like to reassure you that there is no *additional* risk to any other child or staff member because of this child's illness. Children should continue to attend the school as usual.

However, because meningococcal meningitis and septicaemia can be serious diseases, it is important to know what symptoms to look out for.

The most common symptoms are fever, severe headache, vomiting, neck stiffness and a dislike of bright lights. Sometimes the illness is accompanied by a rash of red or purple spots. This is different to usual childhood rashes in that it does not fade or `blanch` when you press on it. This can be tested by using a glass tumbler to press on the rash. Not all these signs and symptoms may show at once. The illness may progress over one or two days but it can develop very rapidly, sometimes in a matter of hours.

Diagnosis in the early stages can be difficult. The early signs can be similar to bad flu symptoms so be watchful and use your instincts.

If your child develops such symptoms, please seek medical advice urgently.

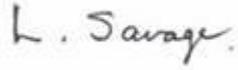
If you have any concerns about your own child please talk to your GP.

Further information on meningococcal disease and meningitis is available from:

NHS Direct	0845 46 47
The National Meningitis Trust www.meningitis-trust.org	0800 028 18 28 (24 hours)

The Meningitis Research Foundation www.meningitis.org 0808 800 3344 (24 hours)
Public Health England NY and the Humber Health Protection Team 01904 687100
(Mon-Fri 9.00-5.00pm)

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Savage". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Lorna Savage
Headteacher