



SOMERS PARK SCHOOL
"A Courtesy School"

*"Unique and very special....
one of the very best schools in the country"* HMI Ofsted



Part of the
Mercian Education
Trust

Executive Head: Mr Chris Hansen
Head of School: Mr Byron Williams

17th April 2018

Dear parents/carers,

A child who attends Somers Park is currently in hospital, and it is believed that the child may be suffering from infection with the meningococcal bacteria, the "meningitis bug". Confirmatory tests are awaited.

Public Health England has advised that parents be given some information about this infection. It is useful for all parents to be aware of what to look out for.

The meningococcal bug is commonly carried in the nose and throat, particularly by older children and young adults, without usually causing harm. Sometimes however it can cause illness in children. The vast majority of cases that occur are sporadic i.e. not related clearly to any other cases.

Though the bug can be passed to others by close contact, including kissing, close contact for long periods are usually needed to spread the germs. In the majority of cases evidence for any increased risk only applies to regular contacts in a "household" setting, particularly the family, and these contacts have been identified and prescribed a short course of antibiotics.

There is no indication for any wider antibiotic treatment at the school, and no need for any child to stay away from school, or to see their family doctor unless of course your child is unwell and is taken to the doctor in the normal way.

Most children will have had their routine meningitis C vaccinations when babies and this protects against this strain. Unfortunately, we are still seeing cases of illness due to the B meningococcal strain for which a vaccine was recently introduced for the youngest children.

It is always important for all parents be aware of the signs and symptoms that may indicate meningococcal disease.

Other useful information on meningitis is available from the expert charity Meningitis NOW www.meningitisnow.org; they also have a helpline 0808 8010388 for further general information.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Hansen
Executive Headteacher

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