

**PACT Head Office**  
Carlton Primary Academy  
Carlton  
Barnsley S71 3HF  
Tel: 01226 723691  
E-mail: [trust@pioneeract.org.uk](mailto:trust@pioneeract.org.uk)

29<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

### **Measles**

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Yorkshire and Humber team have recently circulated communications and guidance following a rise in the number of confirmed measles cases both within Yorkshire and Humber and nationally during the first part of 2023. Whilst there are no reported cases in Barnsley, they are keen to raise awareness of symptoms.

Measles is serious, very infectious and can cause complications such as ear infections and pneumonia. People whose immunity is compromised, pregnant women and unvaccinated children are at increased risk of severe disease.

### Symptoms

Measles symptoms to be aware of include:

- high fever
- sore, red, watery eyes
- coughing
- aching and feeling generally unwell
- a blotchy red brown rash, which usually appears after the initial symptoms.

Anyone with symptoms that could be measles is advised to stay at home and phone their GP or NHS 111 for advice, rather than visiting the surgery or A&E. As measles is easily transmissible, it is important to try and prevent the illness spreading further. Those who have symptoms should also try to stay away from areas where you could come into contact with vulnerable people such as schools, nurseries or care homes. Further information is available <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-dont-let-your-child-catch-it-flyer-for-schools>

### **Mild illness guidance**

We know that winter is one of the peak times for adults and children to come down with mild illnesses such as colds, coughs and sore throats. The attached link provides resources for parents on key attendance practices, which aid in making judgements about mild illness, as well as wider guidance.

- [NHS Guidance: Is my child too ill for school?](#)

### **Mild anxiety guidance**

Being in school and having the best attendance possible underpins all the many benefits of school - not just children's learning but their wellbeing and wider development. We know, for some children, attending school every day will be harder than for others. We encourage parents to actively work with their school's attendance team if their child is worried about attending due to issues at home, in the classroom or playground.

Yours sincerely

**Harry Wood**  
CEO