



Brompton-Westbrook Primary School

The Westbrook Trust

Head Teacher: Mrs S. Mason

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 @BWPrimary

Protect your child against measles by MMR vaccination

Before the measles vaccination was introduced there were between 160,000 and 800,000 cases in England and Wales each year and around 100 deaths a year. Most children got it, some developed severe life-long complications and some died.

The MMR vaccine (which protects against mumps and rubella as well as measles) totally changed this situation and measles was virtually eradicated by 1998.

Now measles has taken hold again. Measles cases increased in England in 2012 - reaching almost 2,000 confirmed cases, and up to the end of May 2013 there had been a total of 1,123 cases since the start of the year. Two of these were in Medway. One in five people who caught measles has needed to be admitted to hospital.

Measles is a very infectious disease but it can be prevented by vaccination. Children are routinely invited for MMR vaccination in two doses; typically the first is given at around 12 months of age and the second at 3 years of age. One dose of MMR vaccine will give 95% protection against measles - a second will provide almost complete protection.

The long summer break involves travel, days out and contact with lots of people for many families. With a high number of cases of measles reported nationally recently, and popular holiday destinations such as France, Italy, Spain and Ireland also having reported high numbers of measles cases, Dr Alison Barnett, Director of Public Health for Medway, is advising parents to make vaccination a priority if their child has not had two doses.

GPs are contacting parents in of children in Medway who are not fully vaccinated to encourage them to have their vaccinations so they are protected. Children and young people who are now 10-16 years old are most at risk as fewer of them were vaccinated as children.

Dr Barnett is advising parents who think their child may not be fully vaccinated to contact their GP surgery to check their child's records, and if necessary book an appointment for the vaccination. It is never too late to be vaccinated against measles.

Brompton-Westbrook Primary School is part of The Westbrook Trust.

The Westbrook Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 09223515.

The registered office is at Brompton-Westbrook Primary school, Kings Bastion, Brompton, Gillingham, Kent. ME7 5DQ.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and achieving equal opportunities and combating discrimination.

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