

Dear Parent/Carer

Mental Health Week

Just a reminder that it is **Wear Your Scarf day for Children's Mental Health Week on Friday 6th February**

Information for schools and families

From 1 January 2026, children started to be offered the MMRV vaccine (measles, mumps, rubella and varicella/chickenpox) instead of the MMR vaccine as part of the routine childhood immunisation schedule. This means children will receive protection against four diseases instead of three.

Why this matters

While many people consider chickenpox to be a mild childhood illness, it can lead to serious complications including bacterial infections such as strep A, brain and lung inflammation, and stroke. In rare cases, it can be fatal. The introduction of this vaccine will help protect children from these serious complications and reduce hospital admissions.

The MMRV vaccine has been safely used for over 10 years in countries including Canada, Australia and Germany, where chickenpox cases and hospital admissions have fallen dramatically. Introducing this vaccine will also reduce missed nursery and school days for children and families.

Who is eligible

- Children born from 1 January 2025: Two doses of MMRV at 12 months and 18 months
- Children born between 1 July 2024 and 31 December 2024: MMRV doses at 18 months and 3 years 4 months
- Children born between 1 September 2022 and 30 June 2024: One MMRV dose at 3 years 4 months
- Selective catch-up programme: Children born between 1 January 2020 and 31 August 2022 will be offered a catch-up dose between November 2026 and March 2028 if they haven't already had chickenpox or two doses of chickenpox vaccine

(MMR vaccine will still be available for older children (and adults) who are ineligible for MMRV but are not yet fully protected against measles, mumps and rubella)

What families need to do

GP practices will contact parents and carers when their child is due for vaccination. They are encouraged to book their appointment when they receive their invitation.

[How the MMRV protects against 4 potentially serious illnesses, including chickenpox – UK Health Security Agency](#)

Reception Phonics Talk

Thank you to those who joined us yesterday for our Phonics talk! Please find the information shared

here: <https://www.hermitageschools.com/assets/Documents/Attachments/EYFS-January-Talk-2026-.pdf>

Please speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Holiday Club

Bookings close on Monday 9th February at noon. If you have any queries, please email clubs@hermitage.surrey.sch.uk

After School Club Toy appeal

Thank you so much for all the generous donations we've received so far - they make a real difference.

If you're having a clear-out and have any art supplies, dolls (barbies or babies), tabletop games (like table football or mini pool), or outdoor toys you no longer need, please think of us. Your contributions help us keep things fun and engaging for the children who attend.

HSA

- Sales for our "Bears at Bedtime" event close at 10:30pm tonight— we are unable to accept any sales after this time. Book your child's spot now at www.pta-events.co.uk/hopa to secure their place.

Kind Regards

The Hermitage Schools

