

# Tackle Meningitis:

## Newsletter alert for parents



Next week,  
is on a mission to Tackle Meningitis!  
We are holding a special event on

to help raise awareness about the disease, its symptoms, where to go for help and advice and the need to trust your instincts and act fast if you suspect meningitis.

The **Tackle Meningitis** campaign is running in schools and sports clubs across the country and is an initiative launched with the help of former **England Rugby Player, Matt Dawson**, and **GSK**. A recent nationwide survey as part of the campaign revealed a worrying gap in awareness and understanding of the condition and amongst parents.

Approximately **3,200 people** get bacterial meningitis and associated septicaemia in the UK each year, and it can be fatal.<sup>1</sup> Babies and young children are most vulnerable to meningitis but young people and students are the next most at-risk group<sup>2</sup>

**There are several strains or 'groups' of meningococcal bacteria such as A, B, C, W, X and Y.<sup>3</sup> Vaccines to help protect against some of these strains are available, so please speak to your local GP, nurse or pharmacist for further information.**

The Tackle Meningitis event aims to increase understanding amongst parents, teachers, families and the local community, and will involve a short talk, a video from Matt talking about key symptoms, a meningitis awareness quiz and a Q&A session.

We encourage all parents to attend the event, and to help spread the word by sharing the campaign on social media using **#tacklemeningitis**.

**Please visit [www.tacklemeningitis.org](http://www.tacklemeningitis.org) for more information about the campaign, and useful resources on meningitis.**



### References

1. Meningitis Research Foundation. Meningitis and septicaemia: UK facts and figures. <http://www.meningitis.org/facts> Last accessed November 2017
2. Meningitis Research Foundation. Meningitis symptoms in young people. <http://www.meningitis.org/symptoms/young-people> Last accessed November 2017
3. Meningitis Research Foundation. Meningococcal meningitis and septicaemia <http://www.meningitis.org/disease-info/types-causes/meningococcal-disease> Last accessed November 2017