



Safe Outdoors in the Summer

Children (and furry pets) always have the potential to encounter something for the first time and the summer can bring about old and new encounters involving insects, pests, bites and stings etc. Here is some information to about what to look out for and what to do:

Summer is here and so are the 'Ticks'



It is important to get medical advice if a rash or other symptoms develop within a few weeks of a tick bite, as early treatment can prevent progression to chronic disease.

The best way of preventing Lyme disease is to avoid being bitten by -

- Walking on clearly defined paths.
- Use an insect repellent that can repel ticks.
- Wear long trousers and long sleeved tops to reduce exposure to your skin.
- Check yourself, children and pets for ticks after being outdoors.



To remove a tick from a child, follow this video advice:
<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/injuries/skin-injuries/tick-bites/>



Symptoms may include:

- swelling
- itchiness
- blistering
- bruising

See your GP if you notice:

- a pink or red rash, particularly if it looks like a target
- a temperature of 38°C (100.4°F) or above
- other flu-like symptoms, like a headache or joint pain
- swollen lymph nodes

In Mawsley, the local farmer has previously made the community aware that Adder snakes may quietly inhabit areas of long grass. These snakes are generally harmless and prefer areas of long grass. They sometimes enjoy basking in hot weather. Adders are usually harmless, unless accidentally disturbed by typically a child / dog, whilst walking or playing in outdoor areas that they inhabit.

NHS Snake Safety Awareness:

- Only 3 types of snake are found in the wild in the UK: Grass Snakes, Smooth Snakes and Adders. Adders are most active from April – July.
- The adder is the only poisonous (venomous) snake. Children, the elderly and dogs are , but you should get all snake bites checked as soon as possible.
- Dogs: Seek veterinary attention immediately

Do

- ✓ stay calm – most snake bites in the UK are not serious and can be treated
- ✓ keep the part of your body that was bitten as still as you can
- ✓ lie in the [recovery position](#) if you can
- ✓ take [paracetamol](#) for any pain
- ✓ try to remember the colour and pattern of the snake to tell the doctor
- ✓ take off any jewellery and loosen clothes near the bite, in case the skin swells

Don't

- ✗ do not go near the snake, or try to catch or kill it
- ✗ do not try to suck or cut the poison (venom) out of the bite
- ✗ do not tie anything tightly round the part of the body where the bite is
- ✗ do not take aspirin or ibuprofen, as they can make bleeding worse



Bite care:
The bite will be cleaned and bandaged by professional. You may be given an injection to help protect you from tetanus.
If you were bitten by a poisonous (venomous) snake you'll be treated with a medicine to fight the venom. This is given through a thin tube into a vein, called a drip.



Memories, Community and Social Media



In school, we have many events that our children celebrating or performing to an audience, whether it is Sports Day, a nativity show, Rocksteady concert or our upcoming birthday celebrations for example. We often welcome parents and families to school to share these celebrations where possible and encourage people to capture these once in a lifetime moments of being that particular age, on that particular day, using your digital devices for your own personal use. Thank you for being so mindful when not sharing images / videos using social media platforms. Here are some sometimes lesser-known reasons why this could otherwise cause difficulties:

- Once shared online, the photo could be seen by people who may potentially cause harm to children
- It may be a photo of your child, but is there a photo of a child in the background who could also be identified?
- Some children have wider safeguarding considerations that are not commonly known, such as needing to avoid being identified due to potential threats of harm.
- Children that are in looked after care may be a greater risk of being identified in images / videos. Should this happen, they could then have to be moved to a new placement, school, part of the country, causing distress to themselves and their carers.
- Identification of a school badge could give potential abusers a way of precisely locating a child
- We teach our children how important it is to give consent to photos / images being shared of themselves – please be mindful when making these choices using social media. **Thank you for helping to keep us all safe.**

Out of Hours Safeguarding

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child, who is not in immediate danger of harm, please speak to one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads.

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child outside of school hours, please contact the MASH team on 0300 126 7000 (option 1) or e-mail them at MASH@nctrust.co.uk . If you think a child is in immediate danger or missing, please contact the police and/or an ambulance directly by phoning 999