



Headlice

It has been brought to our attention that there are cases of head lice in your child's year group.

Whilst the infection could have occurred outside school, for example at football training or on a sleepover, as a school we do have a duty of care to pass on the information.

Please be aware that the level of incidence of head lice is fairly constant throughout the year and this letter is not an indication that there is an 'outbreak'. Rather we are raising your awareness of the situation so that you are reminded to check your child's hair thoroughly and on a regular basis through wet combing using conditioner and a fine toothed comb. It is also recommended to check the hair of every family member.

Please check your child's hair tonight

How to prevent and detect head lice

- Check you child's hair weekly using conditioner and a detector comb.
- A weekly check will ensure that any head lice are detected promptly before they have time to breed.
- If your child is scratching their head, then check more frequently.
- Ensure your child's hair is tied back for school, to reduce the risk of contact.

Detection

- Wash the hair and apply plenty conditioner.
- Comb the hair first with a normal comb and then with a detector comb.
- Comb small sections of the hair starting at the scalp drawing the comb towards the end of the hair strands.
- After each stroke, examine the comb for any head lice.
- Repeat these steps working your way around the head.

Treatment

- Apply the lotion as instructed on the bottle.
- Comb the child's hair each night for one week using conditioner and a detector comb to detect head lice.
- The lotion will need to be reapplied one week later. This is to kill off any remaining eggs.
- After applying the lotion for a second time, hair should be combed alternate nights for one week.

We ask you to treat your child promptly and effectively if a living moving louse is found. Appropriate treatment can be purchased from your local chemist or you can obtain a prescription from your family doctor. Treat all family members. If your child suffers from asthma, ensure the correct lotion is used, as some lotions are not suitable for asthma sufferers.

Your GP or pharmacist will be able to advise on the correct lotion.

Please do not treat you child with chemicals as a preventative measure ('just in case') - this is very ineffective. Check and detect first by wet combing, then only treat if a living moving louse is found.

Head lice is a very common problem in all schools, but we all need to work together to try and eliminate it.

