



Proud to Belong



Transforming schools... changing lives

Dear Parents,

We have become aware that one, or more, children in your child's class have been confirmed to have a head lice infection.

We would like to stress that finding head lice is nothing to be concerned about, they are very common in children of school age and are not harmful. Unfortunately, some children get head lice more than once – whilst others never get infected.

We would, however, like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of regularly carrying out detection combing (see information below) to check for the presence of head lice and eggs.

Don't forget, if you do find head lice or eggs on your child's head, to let all close contacts (including the school) know about it – so that everyone can check for head lice.

If you would like any further information on head lice please speak to your local pharmacist or doctor. Alternatively, you can look at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/> for further information.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs T Creasey
Headteacher



Detecting those bugs.....

The only way to confirm a head lice infection is to find living moving lice (brownish/grey in colour and the size of a sesame seed), eggs (small and dull in colour and very well camouflaged) or 'nits' - the empty egg shells (that are white and shiny) on the head, and the best way to do that is to use a good detection method.

Detection combing

- ❖ You will need: A plastic detector comb
An ordinary comb
Tissue paper
Good lighting
Time (approximately 20 minutes for average length hair).
- ❖ Wash the hair with normal shampoo.
- ❖ Apply enough conditioner to cover the hair thoroughly and comb the hair with an ordinary comb to remove any tangles.
- ❖ If the hair is long, separate it into sections to make combing easier.
- ❖ Start with the teeth of the detection comb touching the scalp and draw the comb carefully towards the edge of the hair.
- ❖ After each stroke, check the teeth of the comb (in good light) for lice and, if necessary, use a piece of tissue to wipe the conditioner from the comb to look for lice.
- ❖ Continue to comb each section thoroughly until the whole head is done.
- ❖ If there are any head lice present, you should find one on the teeth of the comb.

Once you have found live head lice you will need to treat your child's head. Use a treatment method recommended by your healthcare professional (pharmacist, doctor, school nurse).

If you find 'nits' (the empty egg shells) or live eggs (they look like tiny pieces of dandruff) attached to individual strands of hair, the wet combing method is recommended to remove them.

After a successful treatment don't forget to keep checking on a regular basis for any new infections.