

Information on head lice

- Head lice infection is a community problem. We as a school cannot solve the problem but we can help you deal with it.
- Head lice are transmitted by direct and prolonged head-to-head contact.
- Transmission of lice within the classroom is relatively rare. When it does occur, it is usually from a best friend.
- Check hair weekly. See below for advice.
- Remember all family members and friends need to check their hair too; they may carry lice without knowing.
- Some chemical treatments do not kill the head lice eggs. These eggs can hatch out a few days after treatment and start a new infection.
- Lice have a 12 day life cycle. Therefore, you must wet comb every 3-4 days for 2 weeks to ensure eradication after an infection.
- This involves time, patience and commitment.
- Nit combs and detection combs are designed to remove nits and lice.
- If concerned seek advice. Speak to school, the school nurse, G.P or the local pharmacist.

EACH WEEK TAKE A PEEK - It is probably worth checking your child for head lice weekly.

- Wash the hair well and towel dry, the hair should be damp not dripping. If required apply a small amount of conditioner including the full length of the hair. Make sure there is good light. Daylight is best.



- Comb the hair through with a normal comb first, to get rid of any knots.



- With a fine-tooth detection comb (nit comb), starting from the roots of the hairs, draw the comb carefully along the complete length of the hair.



- After each stroke check the comb for lice and wipe it clean.



- Work systematically around the whole head of hair. Do this for several minutes, it takes 10-20 minutes to do it properly for each head. If there are head lice, you will find one or more lice on the teeth of the comb.



- Head lice are little insects with moving legs. They are not much bigger than a pin- head, but may be as big as a sesame seed.
- Remove any live head lice from the comb with a cocktail stick or fingernail onto kitchen or toilet paper. Clean the comb under the tap when finished.
- If you find something and are not sure what it is; stick it on white paper with clear sticky tape and show it to your local Pharmacist, School nurse or Doctor.



- If you see empty cases stuck on the hair it does not mean that the person has lice.
- Do not treat unless you are sure that you have found a living moving louse.

