

Dear Parents,

Head lice (pediculosis) continue to be so annoying, and a year round problem especially with school-aged children.

Lice cannot jump or fly. They spread from person to person when people's heads touch or after sharing things like hats and other clothing, combs, brushes or headbands. Lice can live for up to 2 days without feeding on a person, so you also can get lice from pillowcases, sheets, blankets, sleeping bags and other bedding.

Lice have nothing to do with personal hygiene. Lice love everyone, including the cleanest children in the class! Lice spread in schools and other group settings because these are places where people are in close contact. It is quite common that 1 in 3 children will get lice at some stage in their life and is most common between the ages of 3 and 11 years old.

Parents' Role

- Become educated about head lice – e.g. facts of lice
- Know the signs and symptoms
- How to check for and identify lice and eggs
- Know effective treatments to break the lice lifecycle
- Parents should not only rely on the school to inform them of their presence – regularly check children for head lice and eggs (we recommend weekly)
- Notify the school if your child has head lice
- Check the heads of everyone in your home (parents, nanny, siblings and anyone else who comes into contact with them.)
- Treat them as soon as possible – products available in the pharmacy
- Do a second treatment (the lifecycle takes 7 – 10 days to get rid of any newly hatching lice)
- Teach your child to minimise chances of getting head lice e.g. no sharing hats, combs or brushes
- Girls with long hair to tie it up daily for school
- Clean by vacuum your furniture, carpets, car seats and wash bedding, towels and clothes used in the last 3 days

The School's Role

- If your child is found to have nits/lice parents will be called and asked to collect their child from school as soon as possible. Children will stay with the school nurse until collection.
- Once treatment is done the child needs to be returned to the nurse the following day to inspect the child before he/she will be allowed back into class.
- Please inform the nurse of what treatment you purchased and used on your child.
- Any costumes, hats etc. will be washed before children will be allowed to play with them.
- A letter informing the class that head lice have been detected will be sent out to the class.

Let's work together and regularly check our children to ensure the spread of lice is kept to a minimum.

HIS Admin
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