



## SPECIAL NOTICE TO PARENTS REGARDING HEAD LICE

Dear Parents

There have been some cases of Head Lice in your child's class in the past few days. Please check your child and any siblings, scalp carefully for live lice or nits (eggs), particularly around the ears and back of head, and inform us immediately if your child is infested.

Many head lice infections cause no symptoms, with less than half causing an itch, so do not rely on itching or scratching as an indication that your child may have head lice.

There is **no evidence** to suggest that you need to clean the house or classroom, only the pillowcase requires specific laundering; either wash it in hot water (at least 60 degrees) or dry it using a clothes dryer on the hot setting. There is also no need to treat the whole family unless they have head lice.

If lice eggs are found the child's hair should be treated. Please note, lice can crawl and hide.

**Children must be excluded from school until treated. Written confirmation that your child has been given the appropriate treatment must be passed on to the classroom teacher.**

Head lice and nits are not a new problem. We can only keep them under control through regular home checking and treatment when necessary. Thank you to those parents who have let us know that their child has been affected.

### **HOW TO CHECK FOR HEAD LICE:**

The easiest and most effective way to find them is to follow these steps.

- **STEP 1:**  
Apply conditioner to dry hair aiming to cover each hair from root to tip with a layer of conditioner. Detangle hair using an ordinary comb. **Note: White conditioner is best since the lice and eggs are easier to see.**
- **STEP 2:**  
Immediately comb hair with a fine tooth comb. The best comb for this is the Lice Meister comb, however plastic nit combs with conditioner are also effective.
- **STEP 3:**  
Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto a paper towel or tissue. Look on the tissue and on the comb for any lice and eggs.
- **STEP 4:**  
Repeat the combing for every part of the head at least 4 or 5 times.

If you find less than 5 lice, repeat the conditioner and fine tooth combing daily until all lice are gone. If you find more than 5 lice you will need to use an insecticidal treatment, see details to follow.

## HOW TO TREAT HEAD LICE

- **STEP 1:**  
Apply the product to all areas of the head and coat all hairs from roots to tips. If you are using lotions, apply the product to dry hair. For shampoos, wet the hair, but use the least amount of water possible.
- **STEP 2:**  
For long hair apply the treatment formulation near the scalp and then use an ordinary comb to carry the formulation down the hair shaft to the tip. If the product is left on the comb after one sweep, it should be wiped onto the same or a new area of hair at the base and the process repeated. By repeating this process several times for hair all over the head, you can obtain an even coverage of all hairs from roots to tip. In addition the hair is tangle free and use of a fine tooth comb is simplified.
- **STEP 3:**  
**Leave the preparation on for 20 minutes. Cover the child's eyes while treatment is being applied. Ask them to hold a towel against their eyes.**

**ONE treatment does not kill all the eggs** so treatment must involve two applications seven days apart. The purpose of the first treatment is to kill all lice, the second treatment is to kill young lice hatched over the next six days. It is also a good idea to use the conditioner and fine tooth comb method between treatments.

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The following website offers further information:  
<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/phd/headlice/index.htm>

Regards

Cheryl Williams  
Principal

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***Please complete and return to classroom teacher if you have treated your child for head lice.***

I have treated my child:..... of grade.....  
for head lice with the appropriate treatment and have removed the nits from the hair  
and / or head.

Signed:..... Date:.....