



WESTHAVEN SCHOOL

A Business and Enterprise College

Headteacher: Tracy Towler BEd (Hons) NPQH
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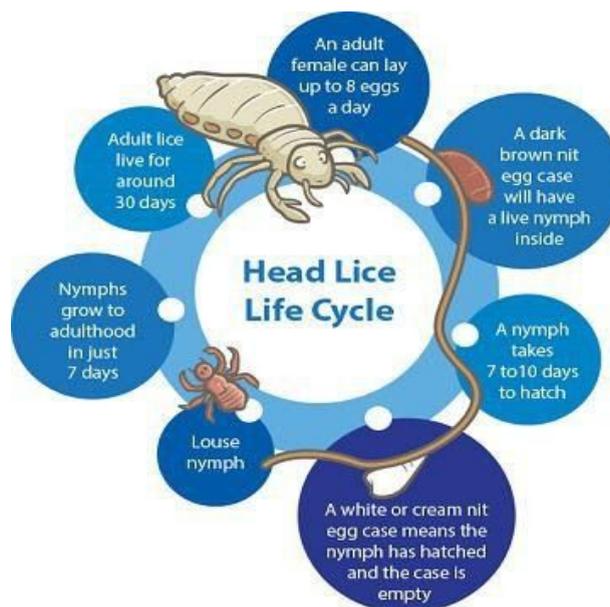
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HEAD LICE

Let's Work Together!

- Learn about head lice. And discover how to detect them
- Reduce anxiety about head lice.



What you can expect from the school:

- Provide parents information on treating head lice and the means of controlling them.
- If staff suspect that a child has head lice, the class will be alerted with a note sent home, prompting parents to check hair.
- Individual reports will be kept confidential.
- We will refer families to the School Nurse for further support, if required.
- Staff are vigilant for untreated/persistent cases of head lice
- Children will not be excluded because of head lice. We feel such measures are extreme and unjustifiable.
- Arrange the school nurse to deliver a information sharing meeting if required

What we expect from parents/carers:

- Check for head lice on a weekly basis (ideally by wet combing)
- Please check both boys and girls hair!
- If live lice are discovered, treat the infestation as soon as possible.
- Treat your child and all family members



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What are Head Lice?

A head louse is a tiny, wingless insect that can attach itself to a person's hair, where it feeds on extremely small amounts of blood from the scalp. They can only move to another head by crawling from hair to hair when the heads physically touch. Head lice lay eggs around the roots and on the hair – it is the eggs that are more commonly seen in children than the lice.

Facts

- Head lice have nothing to do with cleanliness. Anyone can have lice. Lice love everyone!
- If a person is carrying 20 lice, those lice could lay 2,652 eggs during their reproductive life.
- The eggs take 7 to 10 days to hatch.
- “Nits” are the empty egg of a head louse after hatching.
- “Nymphs” are immature head lice, reaching maturity between 7-13 days. Before this they are unable to lay eggs, or move to another head.
- They can live for up to 40 days.
- Lice are programmed to want to move to another head and can move quickly when disturbed – a louse can travel up to 23cm in a minute.
- They cannot jump, swim or fly. They can only crawl from head to head, so they are not quite the all action heroes we might think.!
- Head lice only live on human beings, not on other animals.

Treatments

There are various solutions available to parents.

One way to treat Head Lice is to use insecticidal lotion or liquid which are available at pharmacies. Lice are usually killed after **two applications** of the lotion a week apart (remember you will need two doses of the lotion!) This treatment also requires wet combing every 2 days.

If you prefer not to use insecticide based lotions, you can use the Wet Combing method, which is gentler for children.

This is where you cover the hair in conditioner and then using a plastic nit comb, physically remove all Head Lice by combing them out. This treatment should be repeated every **2 days** until no more Head Lice are detected.

Talk to Your Child

Children can find having Head Lice a traumatic experience. Physically it can be very itchy, uncomfortable. Emotionally children can feel embarrassed, ashamed and ‘dirty’.

It is important for you to talk to your child about Head Lice and how they love everyone's hair! It is not a sign of being unclean. But it is, unfortunately, very common.

Please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/> for further information on treating head lice.



**REMEMBER
ONCE A WEEK,
TAKE A PEEK**

Thank you for your continued support.