

Dear Parents,

There have been several cases of head lice in the school. As head lice continues to be a problem in all schools, I have set out the recommended treatment below which, if followed by everybody, should help combat the problem.

This should be carried out regularly even if head lice have not been found. Comb with a fine-tooth comb on really wet conditioned hair **before** you rinse out the conditioner. Do this for at least 5 minutes every time the hair is washed. Ensure that the whole head is combed each time from scalp to ends of hair. This removes any lice before they are mature enough to lay eggs or transfer to another head.

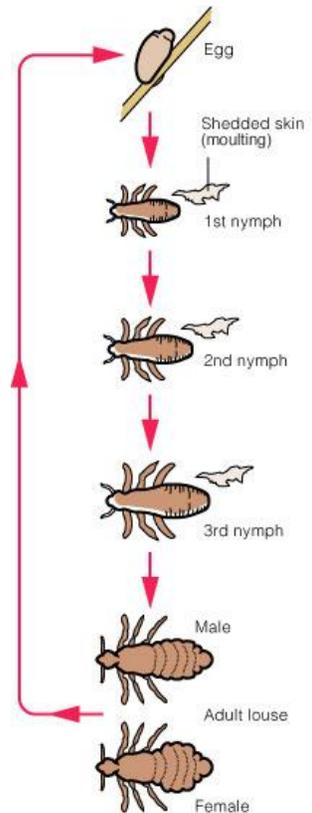
If you have a continuing problem or would like expert advice please contact the school office and we can put you in contact with the school nurse.

### What can schools do to prevent head lice spreading?

Head lice infestation, particularly when repeated, can cause great distress. Generally speaking, teachers and parents who become infested are likely to feel more squeamish than children, who often have a more matter-of-fact approach.

Schools may wish to consider the following approach to head lice prevention, which involves obtaining the co-operation of parents.

- Parents should be provided with information on 'bug busting'.
- Schools may wish to supply parents with 'bug buster' combs. Bulk buying can reduce the cost.
- Parents should be requested to check their child's hair regularly, using the 'bug busting' wet combing method described above, and inform the school as soon as they discover any head lice.
- When an outbreak occurs, all parents should be sent a standard letter, alerting them to the outbreak and asking them to take part in a 'bug busting' campaign, involving careful combing of the whole family's conditioned hair with a 'bug buster' comb every three days over a two week period. All parents should be asked to take part, regardless of whether they think their child has lice, since without rigorous checking the lice are easy to miss. Teachers and their families should also participate in the campaign.
- Parents who choose to use an insecticidal product should also be advised to 'bug bust' 3-5 days after application, to check that no lice remain after the treatment and to clear any new lice which may be caught, before they multiply.



Yours sincerely,

Mrs Verity Stobart  
Headteacher