HEAD LICE INFORMATION

Dear Parents,

Please check your children at fortnightly intervals throughout the year.

We appreciate it if parents inform the school if their child has lice as we can ask all families to check as well.

IF YOU FIND HEAD LICE and / or EGGS, below is useful information for treatment.

(If treatment is necessary, please follow directions carefully and re-treat in 7 days to kill any newly hatched lice).

- Eggs may still be present if treatment was done recently. Please try to remove all eggs to stop re-infestation and to make any checks accurate.

If you choose to use the conditioner and combing treatment, do this every other day until clear.

If your child is clear, remember that regular screening with conditioner and careful checking of hair is imperative for early detection and prevention.

For this program to be successful, it is vital that all families check all children and family members regularly and notify the school if head lice are present.

Thank you for your assistance

What you should look for:

Head Lice Adults: You will see lightning fast creatures, about the size of a sesame seed. They move so fast they are most likely only to see a flash and then they will be gone. Females are bigger than male lice and will lay 6 eggs a day in her lifespan of 30 days. The louse is perfectly adapted for moving through hair and has a powerful claw like hook at the end of their front legs, making it very easy for them to swing from person to person. They can get around the head very easily and quickly making it very difficult to catch them.

Head Lice Nymphs: These look just like adult lice only smaller. The only difference is they change colour to suit their surroundings, so will closely resemble the hair they are living in.

Nits, or head lice eggs: You will usually find these tear shaped droplets around 2cm away from the scalp, where it is warmest. Live eggs are brown in colour; the dead eggs are white or clear. The adult will attach these eggs with its own glue; this is a bond that is extremely difficult to break. The result is an egg that is attached to the shaft with a small donut of glue, meaning the egg needs to be slid all the way down the shaft in order to be removed.

There are various Lice Treatments available from chemists and supermarkets. There is also the ‘Conditioner Method’ which is worth doing regularly (see below).

Step 1  Comb (a specialised Lice Comb is preferable for satisfactory results) hair conditioner on to dry, brushed (detangled) hair. This makes it difficult for lice to grip the hair or run around.

Step 2 Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto a paper towel or tissue.

Step 3 Look on the tissue and on the comb for lice and eggs.

Step 4 Repeat the combing for every part of the head at least four or five times.

Step 5 If the person has been treated recently and only hatched eggs are found, you may not have to treat them again since the eggs could be from the old infection.

Electric combs – electric combs are available which ‘zap’ live lice by combing through hair.

Below are two links to information on treating headlice with various methods: