

21st February 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

### **HEADLICE LETTER - Whole School**

We have had reports from some parents that they have found headlice / nits in their children's hair.

Please could I ask all parents to please ensure that you check your child's hair on a daily basis for around two weeks, to ensure they are free from lice. You will also have to check the hair of other family members if you discover any uninvited guests!

The school nurse recommends the use of a 'wet method' using conditioner and a fine tooth comb as the most effective way to get on top of the problem.

As a precaution could I ask that children with long hair wear it tied up as this will help stop the spread.

The reverse of this letter details how to treat headlice should you find any. I hope you find this information useful. If you are unsure, or /require assistance, the school nurse is available upon request.

Thank you for your cooperation with this matter. If we all check at the same time then we stand a better chance of eradicating the problem.

Yours sincerely



Lindsey Corbett  
Principal

## **FED UP WITH HEADLICE?**

### **Some real facts about headlice:**

- Headlice are tiny creatures with six legs. They can grip tightly onto hair
- They vary in colour from grey to brown
- They feed on blood from the scalp and this causes the head to itch
- A louse can live up to a month and can lay several eggs every day
- The eggs (nits) are glued onto the hair and hatch out in about a week.

### **How do you catch headlice?**

- Headlice are caught by close head to head contact
- Most headlice are caught by school children as they play close together
- However a quarter of all cases are adults or babies
- Headlice can be caught during school holidays, at weekends and on an evening
- You can still catch headlice if your hair is clean and you shampoo it every day!
- The only people who cannot catch headlice are those without hair!

### **What can be done?**

- The Wakefield Health Authority advises schools that sending repeated letters home to parents is pointless and just causes alarm
- The Community Health Council has concluded that the school nurse cannot solve the headlice problem
- Headlice spread in school when parents allow their children to come to school when infested
- The problem can only be solved by parents checking hair carefully and frequently
- Check your family's hair at least once a week