



Grand Avenue Primary & Nursery School

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Thursday, 17th October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Head Lice in School

We are writing to inform you that a case of head lice has been reported in Year 5. We kindly ask all parents and carers to check their children's hair and scalp thoroughly tonight for any signs of head lice.

What to Look For:

- Small, white or yellowish eggs (nits) attached to hair shafts close to the scalp.
- Tiny, wingless insects that move quickly through the hair.

We appreciate your cooperation and support in managing this common issue. By working together, we can help prevent the spread of head lice within our school community.

Below is an extract from NHS Direct regarding the treatment of head lice:

Head lice are difficult to remove because of their size, re-infestation rate, life cycle and their ability to develop immunity to insecticides. Lice can be a persistent and recurring nuisance, so it is important to treat them quickly and thoroughly.

Once infestation is confirmed it can be treated at home using wet combing with conditioner, or medicated lotions, combined with a special nit comb.

Wet Combing Method

Wet combing or "bug busting" is used to remove lice without using chemical treatments:

Wash the hair as normal.

- *Apply conditioner liberally (this causes the lice to lose their grip on the hair).*
- *Comb the hair through with a normal comb first.*
- *With a fine tooth nit comb, comb from the roots along the complete length of the hair and after each stroke check the comb for lice and wipe it clean. Work methodically over the whole head for at least 30 minutes.*
- *Rinse the hair as normal.*
- ***Repeat every three days for at least two weeks.***

This method can be helpful because head lice are growing increasingly resistant to the insecticides used to remove them.

There is no need to wash clothing or bedding specially – any lice found away from the scalp are likely to be damaged, dead or dying and so unable to start a new colony.



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We have a supply of bug busting combs which are available from the school office, priced at 60p. Most chemists also stock them. Some families prefer to use a head lice treatment rather than the wet combing method. Chemists/supermarkets stock a wide selection. If you need help in managing or treating head lice, then please do speak to myself or Mrs Jones in the school office. We can support and advise on treatment options.

Ideally, you should check your child's hair from time to time to make sure they have not returned. If your child does have head lice we ask you to report the problem to the school office and we will send out a letter to the whole year group asking parents to re-check their children. We don't mention any child's name and treat the matter with the utmost discretion. Please do let us know, otherwise it is very hard to rid the school of the outbreak.

I hope this information is helpful. Don't forget to ensure you check your child's hair tonight and hopefully we'll be a bug free zone as soon as possible.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Shona Pitcher
Headteacher



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