



Dear Parents/Carers

Unfortunately, we have an outbreak of head lice in your child's class. Head lice are, and always have been, a problem for the whole community and Sandy Hill is no exception.

I understand the complex range of reaction that the news of head lice brings in parents, but the bottom line is that **the only way to successfully get rid of them is for all of us to work together**. Head lice are not a reflection on personal hygiene; they can only be passed on through head to head contact. The length of hair is not a factor.

Parents need to be vigilant and check their children's hair regularly. Combing with a fine-tooth comb, available from the local chemist, is the only way to check. Comb their hair over a sheet of white paper and any live lice and eggs will show up. If head lice or eggs are found **THE WHOLE FAMILY** should be treated with a suitable lotion, you can get advice from your chemist. The instructions **MUST** be followed carefully. The most effective preventative measure against head lice infestation is regular inspection and combing hair with a fine-tooth comb.

Parents who are unsure what to look for should contact us so that we can advise on the routine.

Neither the school nurse nor any member of staff is permitted at any time to touch your children's hair. We can only bring the situation to your attention when the head lice can be seen openly moving around or falling on to their shoulders or work. Neither can we ever send a child home or ask you to keep him/her at home until it clears. If there is a persistent problem we will contact you and suggest that the school nurse, deals with your family direct. **This is the Health Authority's and the Local Education Authority's agreed policy on tackling head lice.** This has happened in the past and with the school nurse working within families, has proven to be very successful indeed. **All members of the family need to be checked.** Head lice do not come from school; they arrive here from elsewhere and then spread rapidly. By the time it becomes an issue there is no way that anyone can find out where they came from originally.

The only way to keep head lice under control is to **CHECK HEADS REGULARLY.**

Yours sincerely

Helen Bingham  
Head of School

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