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IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ

Dear Parent/Carer,

Since September, we have had steady reports of head lice and nits being spread amongst the year group, however, this last half term there has been an increase in the amount of reports we are getting.

We are aware that several children in Year 2 are becoming very emotional and distressed at having to have their hair treated and a number of parents are, understandably, becoming frustrated. Whilst many parents are identifying a nit/lice issue and treating it effectively, within a few days of clearing their child(ren), the nits/lice return.

It is therefore vital that all parents/carers help us by taking advantage of the 2 week holidays to try and break this cycle so that we can start the summer term clear of head lice.

We are asking that all parents check **all family member's** hair as soon as possible. Teachers in Year 2 are being asked to do the same. The NHS advise that you check for head lice/nits by wet combing hair with conditioner and a nit comb (bought from any pharmacy). To ensure this is checked thoroughly and is effective, we ask that it be done **on day 1, 5, 9 and 13 with a final check being done on day 17**. This may seem extreme, especially if you don't find any evidence of lice, but immature nits can take several days to hatch. If there is any indication of head lice, please seek advice about how to treat it immediately, making sure you **treat all family members** as early in the holidays as possible and then re-check throughout the rest of the break. If using a medicinal treatment, we recommend using a solution that is 100% effective on nits and lice. Although it not considered essential by the NHS, we would also recommend that **all worn clothing is washed and bedding is stripped and washed**. We advise that hair brushes/combs are cleaned also. Checking for nits/head lice should continue to be done regularly when the children are back in school.

If you are aware that your child(ren) have an ongoing lice problem and even when treated they do not go, **we urge you to consult your doctor** for further support. Further advice can be found on the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

As this is affecting so many of our children, it is my intention to discuss this issue with all pupils upon their return to school. We hope to be able to inform the children about what head lice and nits are, how they might feel, what might cause them and how they might get help if they feel they need it. We also hope to reassure the children that if they do suffer with head lice, it is nothing to be ashamed of and in reality, as it states on the NHS website, there is nothing that can be done to prevent it entirely. Neither is the presence of head lice a result of anything they have done 'wrong'.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reassure you that we are trying to do as much as possible to tackle this. Unfortunately, we are unable to check or treat children's hair in school without specific permission and therefore we rely heavily on you all acting on the advice we are giving. We do hope that this next step will allow us to work with you and your children to try and prevent any further extreme spread of head lice. Your ongoing support is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs K MacDiarmid

Year 2 Teacher

YOUR CHANCE TO SHINE

Assistant Head Teacher

