



St Paul's Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher: Elizabeth Vautier-Thomas BA Ed (Hons)

Tuesday, 17 September 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Head Lice

Within schools at any one time there will be a small number of children infected with head lice. Infection levels usually remain fairly constant but if you could please inspect your child/ children's hair at least once a week we would be grateful.

Head lice do not always cause an itchy scalp so many people will be unaware they are infected. Sufferers only develop an itchy scalp if they become sensitive to the louse saliva, and this can take up to two months.

What to look for:

- a tiny six legged insect slightly smaller than a match head. Grey/ brown in colour and
- Eggs. The eggs are firmly attached to single hairs and as they are difficult to move should not be confused with dandruff which is easily removed. Live eggs are dark cream in colour and are found very close to the scalp. Empty eggshells (nits) are white and may be found further from the scalp.

The 5 Step Detection Process:

1. Wash hair well and towel dry.
2. Comb the hair with an ordinary comb to remove tangles.
3. Using a detection comb (currently free from school), comb slowly from the scalp towards the end of the hair. Wiping the comb on a white tissue, kitchen roll will help you to see if any head lice have been removed.
4. Repeat this process covering the scalp in all directions.
5. Keep checking the comb.

If you do confirm head lice infestation, there are a number of treatments available including:

Insecticides, wet combing ('bug-busting') and non-insecticide products. For more information please visit the NHS website.

Please ensure you treat your child before they are returned to school.

To prevent the number of children getting head lice we would be grateful if children could keep long hair tied neatly in a ponytail or plait.

Kind regards

Mrs Vautier- Thomas

Headteacher



Registered office: St. Paul's Church of England Primary School,
Hampton Dene Road, Tupsley, Hereford, Herefordshire. HR1 1UX



†In your light shall we see light



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