



Oakham Primary School

Darby's Hill Road, Tividale, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 1SG

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Dear Parents / Carers,

A pupil in your child's class has been found to have head lice. Please take the following action:

1. **USE A DETECTION COMB TO CHECK YOUR CHILD FOR HEAD LICE**

Wet hair thoroughly and lean forward over a white surface such as a washbasin or towel or paper spread on a table. Thoroughly comb hair from the roots outwards with a detection comb. Any lice that are present will be combed out or will get stuck between the teeth of the comb. This confirms the presence of lice.

2. **IF YOU FIND LICE, YOU WILL NEED TO TREAT YOUR CHILD**

There are two options:-

Wet combing: head lice can be cleared in two weeks with this method.

Wash with shampoo and then rinse hair. Apply an ordinary hair conditioner. Comb the wet hair from the roots with a detector comb. Make sure the teeth of the comb slot into the hair on every stroke. Do this over a pale surface such as the washbasin. Clean the comb of lice between each stroke. Combs and hairbrushes should be washed afterwards in hot water.

Repeat this routine every three to four days so that larvae are removed as they hatch.

This programme will eliminate head lice. Treatment of clothing and bedding is not necessary. After one session of combing all adult lice will have been combed out the person will no longer be infectious.

Lotions

Suitable lotions can be obtained from your local chemist. The manufacturers instructions on use should be followed.

3. **WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED TO DO?**

If your child does have head lice, check all other members of the household (including parents, uncles, aunts and grandparents) with the detection comb to see if they have lice. If they do, then they will need to be treated.

Contacts of a person with head lice should only be treated if head lice are found. It is not necessary to treat anyone unless you have found lice. Tell contacts of affected family members about the problem with head lice including schools, nursery or playgrounds they attend. The parents of friends and classmates can then be alerted so that they can examine their own children.

4. **WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT HEAD LICE?**

Children and adults should brush or comb their hair thoroughly at least once a day. Use the detection comb on wet hair once a week to check for lice and take action if you find any.

5. **EXCLUSION OF CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL**

There is no need to keep a child away from school provided treatment has been started.

6. **FURTHER ADVICE AND INFORMATION**

Advice on head lice is available from <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Yours sincerely

Mr. N Skett
Head Teacher

