

HEADTEACHER

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25 September 2018

Dear Parents

I have been made aware of several children suffering with head lice in school. I understand fully how expensive, as well as inconvenient, it can be if your child is frequently suffering from the problem. The guidelines stated below are the advice given to schools by the Health Authority. Unfortunately as a school, we can do no more but inform the whole school community when the problem arises.

When head lice notes are sent out I do please urge you to check your child's head that evening and if lice are present they should be treated **before your child returns to school.** Gone are the days when the school nurse regularly came into school to check for head lice. It is now for each family to act on the advice if and when an outbreak occurs. This is our best possible chance of eradicating the constantly recurring problem in school.

Worcestershire Health Authority recommends as follows:

- It is advisable to check your child's hair regularly. If head lice are found it is very important to check all people who have close contact with your child – brothers, sisters, grandparents, friends and childminders. All affected people should be treated immediately.
- Treat the outbreak with any head lice product immediately and repeat one week later. However, there is little point in giving more than two treatments with a chemical agent, as there appears to be resistance.
- If resistance is a problem, or parents prefer not to use chemical methods, "wet combing" for approx. 15 minutes with a fine-toothed comb and conditioner is a very acceptable alternative
- Wet combing should be carried out every third day and for at least two weeks following the outbreak.
- If your child is free from head lice weekly combing should be continued.

Thank you.



Miss J Wilson
Headteacher