



Friezland Primary School

'A Family Committed to Making a Difference'

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Check for Head Lice

Dear Families,

We have been made aware of cases of head lice at school. Please check your child's hair tonight and if needed, use treatment before they return to school.

Checking for Infection

It is important that all families check to see if they have been infected. Head lice infections are probably picked up from an adult or child who does not know they are infected. Therefore, checking regularly is very important.

What exactly are head lice?

Adult head lice are tiny grey/brown insects. They can move fast and are about the size of a pinhead. The females lay small skin-coloured eggs every day (nits). Each egg is firmly attached to a hair close to the scalp. The eggs take seven days to hatch and then live for about a month. Head lice do not fly or jump but walk from person to person by head-to-head contact or on combs, brushes etc.

Head lice themselves do not cause the itching associated with infection. The itching comes from the tiny red spots caused by the head lice feeding habits.

Treating Head lice

Treating head lice is a very quick and easy process. The chemist can advise you on the various treatments which are available to get rid of the head lice. Some are natural, others are approved insecticide lotions. To be effective, the treatment should be administered as directed and the hair combed with the use of a specialist comb, used regularly over the recommended period.

Please remember that if you find head lice on your children, you should also check yourself and other family members because they are spread by close contact. Once you have cleared the infection, or if you find that no infection has taken place, please continue to check for the next few weeks to guard against re-infection. Please be patient; check your child's hair, treat if necessary and check again.

Thank you for your support.

Miss R Swaby (Headteacher).

