

# RIBCHESTER ST. WILFRID'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Church Street, Ribchester, Preston, Lancashire. PR3 3XP  
Tel: 01254 878300 Fax/Answer Phone: 01254 878069  
Email: head@ribchester-st-wilfrids.lancs.sch.uk



14 March 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians

## Head Lice

We have once again been informed of cases of head lice in school. Several parents have expressed their frustration at having to repeatedly treat their child's hair due to re-infection. Head lice is not an uncommon event in childhood, however it has been a continuous problem in school for many months now.

**Please can we ask all parents to check their child's hair tonight and make sure any outbreaks are treated immediately to prevent head lice being passed on.**

Head lice are very small whitish or grey-brown insects that range from the size of a pinhead to the size of a sesame seed and can be difficult to spot, even when the head is closely inspected. In school we cannot usually identify a child with head lice. The only way to be sure someone has head lice is to find a live louse by combing their hair with a special fine-toothed comb (detection combing).

Children may also show signs of having head lice such as

- small white eggs or nits (egg cases) in the hair behind the ears or at back of the neck
- an itchy scalp
- a rash on the back of the neck
- feeling as though something is moving in the hair

If we do notice a child in school with head lice, or showing any of the above signs we will mention in person to the parents or send a text message home asking you to check and treat your child. When lice are found please check the rest of the family, it is likely if one member of the family has head lice, others will too.

***Once hair is treated it is essential to keep detection combing for three weeks, as this is how long it can take for a missed egg, or nit, to hatch.***

Please see attached NHS letter for further information.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Headlice is just one of the infectious conditions that can affect children in the community. This information sheet gives advice on how best to treat Headlice.

It is important that children's hair is checked on a weekly basis so that any head lice can be dealt with quickly and before they are allowed to spread too far.

Follow the simple routine below to keep head lice outbreaks to a minimum.

### CHECK

- Your child's hair once a week
- Use a proper detection comb – with teeth no more than 0.3mm apart to trap head lice.
- Wash the hair using ordinary shampoo and use conditioner to make combing easier. Towel dry hair and remove tangles with a wide toothed comb. Using a detection comb part hair into small sections and comb the hair from scalp to the end. Wipe the comb each time with a piece of kitchen paper and check for live lice.
- If you find live lice, consult a pharmacist or GP for treatment advice. Head lice treatments are available on prescription.
- If live lice are detected all close contacts should carry out detection combing.

### TREAT

- Only treat if live lice are identified.
- Use a clinically proven treatment – if unsure advice can be sort from the school nurse or pharmacist.
- Leave the treatment on for the recommended time for maximum effect – leaving it on for longer will not make it more effective.

### COMPLETE

- Repeat the treatment for a second time seven days after the first to kill any lice that may hatch from eggs during that time.
- Check that all head lice have gone within two to three days of the final application of head lice treatment to complete the process
- Continue to check for head lice on a regular, weekly basis.

For more advice and support contact your school nurse or pharmacist or visit:

[www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk)

NHS Choices: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

Thank you for your co-operation