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Department of Children's Health

Head lice

Dear Parents

There has been an occurrence of head lice in your child's class/kindergarten. All parents are required to cooperate in this matter in order to prevent this from spreading further.

The presence of one tiny, crawling louse is hard to detect immediately, and it may be several weeks or months before you notice an infestation.

So that **you** spot an infestation of head lice as soon as possible, we ask you to examine your child's hair once a week for the **next 6 weeks** by wet combing as follows:

- Apply any hair conditioner generally available on the market. This will make it easier to comb the hair out and stops the head lice from escaping, as they become trapped in the conditioner.
- Now carefully comb the hair conditioner/treatment out with a special **plastic** nit comb, hank by hank, starting at the scalp and combing to the tips of the hair.
- Wipe the comb on a white tissue after each pass of the comb. Inspect the conditioner for nits (the size of a grain of sand) or lice (the size of sesame seed), using a magnifying glass if required.

Check	1st week	2nd week	3rd week	4th week	5th week	6th week
Date:						

In the event of an infestation:

Should you find lice or nits, please buy a suitable product for the treatment of head lice. Use the treatment according to the instructions and wet comb the hair once again after application.

Your child will be able to attend school, etc., on the day after treatment, as they will no longer be at risk of passing head lice on.

None of the treatments can reliably kill off all the nits present, therefore it is **essential to carry out a second treatment exactly nine days after the first**. It is also necessary to comb out the hair using hair conditioner on the 5th, 9th, 13th and 17th day and wet comb the hair, including that of all family members, once a week to maintain a check.

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To be handed in at kindergarten/school immediately by all parents (i.e. no later than two days after receipt):

Confirmation to be returned to school/kindergarten

We confirm that we have examined our child

.....
Surname, first name

for head lice and that no nits or head lice have been found.
We will wet comb our child's hair once a week for the next six weeks in order to maintain a check.

.....
Signature of parent/guardian, date

Treatment schedule for infestations:

	1st day treatment and wet combing	5th day wet combing only	9th day treatment and wet combing	13th day wet combing only	17th day wet combing only	For 4 weeks comb out once per week
Date:						

If you find small "baby lice" or nits on the 5th day, please wait until the 9th day to carry out the next treatment, as there is no danger of passing these small lice on.

Please bear in mind that lice always lay their eggs directly on the hairline and that hair grows 1 cm per month; any nits found more than 1 cm away from the hairline do not indicate a new infestation of lice and require no further treatment. Nits that are found three centimetres away from the scalp will be 3 months old.

Please inform the parents of your child's friends of any infestation – it is known that head lice only spread by crawling from hair to hair, so transmission requires close head-to-head contact. Head lice cannot fly or jump, need an ambient temperature of 31°C and to feed on blood every two to three hours, and cannot survive off the human body.

Combs and hairbrushes should be cleaned and towels and bedding washed once, after which, according to current practice, no further washing and cleaning is necessary.

We do not recommend the use or application of oils, "natural" shampoos, "lice" washing detergent, room sprays or preventative products, as these are unnecessary.

Long hair may be gathered up and tied back by way of prevention, in order to limit the possibility of contact.

Parents must notify the school/kindergarten if an infestation of head lice is found (§ 34 Infection Protection Act).

A child infested with head lice is not allowed to attend school or day care centres.

All parents of children in the affected group/class must confirm in writing by return that they have examined their child for head lice, and that the child is free of head lice and nits – the child will not be allowed to attend without this confirmation.

If this affects you, you are welcome to phone the Health Office on 06221 5221829 for individual advice.

Yours faithfully

Health Office
Children's Health Department

12/2012

☎ Environment 522-1800 AIDS advice 522-1820 Medical service 522-1872 Travel immunisation advice 522-1829

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**Confirmation to be returned to school/kindergarten
of treatment carried out for head lice**

We hereby confirm that our child

.....
Surname, first name

has been treated with the approved productand that their hair has been
combed out with hair conditioner and a nit comb. Name of preparation

We will carry out a second treatment nine days after the first treatment and will wet comb their hair on
the 5th, 9th, 13th and 17th day.

.....
Signature of parent/guardian, date