



PILGRIMS' CROSS CE AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning, to make a difference, in God's world

Headteacher – Mr Jonathan Le Fevre MA(ED),NPQH

Deputy Headteacher – Mr Richard Osmond BA(ED)

Picket Twenty Way – Andover – Hampshire – SP11 6TY – Telephone 01264 365434



Website:: www.pilgrimscross.co.uk E-mail: admin@pilgrimscross.hants.sch.uk Twitter: @PilgrimsCross

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS – HEAD LICE

Background

Head lice infections are passed on during close head to head contact. These infections can be quite common amongst young children due to the type of contact they have with friends and family members whilst playing or being cared for.

The Education Authority recognises that schools have a responsibility to educate and inform and that parents have a responsibility to detect and carry out adequate treatment for head lice infections.

School Nurses are limited in their capacity to support parents here, and will generally only be involved in more severe cases. However, the Parent Support Advisor is available for support in this area.

The school, with support from the school nurse, will provide:

- Information and advice about head louse to all parents.
- Confidential support to families with head lice infections, including from the parent support advisor.
- Information about head lice detection and treatment including wet combing, to all new parents.
- Regular reminders for parents to check for head lice (e.g newsletter).
- Information about any head lice infections in a child's group.

The school requests that parents:

- Regularly check their child's head for head lice (e.g after each hair wash).
- Inform the class teacher if live lice are found.
- Carry out treatment according to the information NHS choices website (<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice/pages/introduction.aspx>) or Southern Health leaflet.
- Check their child's hair as soon as information is given about contact with an infected classmate, friend or relative.

Action upon finding live head lice:

- Carefully considered measures can, and should be taken in school to prevent the spread of head lice to other people. The school will aim to make the child comfortable and unaware of the head lice that are found, it also has a duty to attempt to prevent other children becoming infected.
- If a child has been found to have head lice, the Parent/Carer of the child will be informed as soon as possible by phone and the school will request treatment is carried out as soon as possible. If this is carried out during the school day this will be an authorised absence.
- No child will be excluded or sent home due to having head lice.
- Parents/Carers of other children in that child's class or year group will also be informed via a text message.
- If there are repeated incidents of head lice being found and there are concerns that advice from the school, family support worker and/or school nurse has not been taken by the parent/carers, then the school may need to refer the situation to Children's Service, as it may be evidence of neglect. Details of this may be found in the school's safeguarding policy.
- The school strongly opposes any bullying or negative behaviour towards children and/or parents of children who require treatment for head lice.

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As always, Pilgrims' Cross CE (A) Primary School aims to work with parents and other agencies to provide support and guidance, so that the pupils can achieve and learn in a safe, happy environment.

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