

Stop Head Lice Spreading at Wincheap Foundation Primary School

Did you know?

- Head lice are well camouflaged and hide when disturbed by dry combing. It is very difficult to spot even full grown head lice in dry hair
- Head lice do not always cause itching, but if they do, it can be uncomfortable and distract your child from their school work
- Head lice cannot fly, jump or swim, but spread by clambering from head to head. From 3-4 days old they can crawl from one head to another

It is always a shock when your child first comes home with head lice. Do not feel embarrassed! It does not mean that you are at fault, or that your child has dirty hair. Anyone can catch head lice and there is absolutely no stigma attached to having an infestation (often only 10 head lice or less but annoyingly contagious). You must tell your child's teacher and also anyone else your child has been in contact with to prevent the lice from spreading.

Wincheap Foundation Primary School aims to be a head lice free zone and we need your help as parents and carers to prevent head lice from spreading through the school.

Please check your child's hair using the wet combing method (ie check the hair section by section using an effective head lice comb and some conditioner) at least once a week – it can be done as part of your normal hair washing routine.

Even if your child has never had head lice, we still advise that you check regularly. If you find lice, don't panic! Instead, please do start treatment immediately.

For more information we recommend you look at the website of Community Hygiene Concern (www.chc.org) which provides information to parents, carers and schools and runs national Bug Busting Days.

Head lice are a fact of life, but we can help to stop them spreading. Together we can break the cycle and stop head lice from circulating at our school.

