



The Brook Special School
Broadwaters Inclusive Learning Community
Adams Road
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Headteacher: Maureen Duncan MA, MEd, MSc, NPQH, FRSA

Deputy Headteacher: Sukina Campos

Registered Charity Number: 280180

Thursday 11th January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Head Lice

A pupil in your child's class has been reported as having head lice. Please would you check your child's hair tonight to ensure that they are clear of head lice. If you find an infestation, please treat your child with one of the methods outlined below. It is important that **all** parents and carers help clear the school of this infestation.

Head lice are small insects, roughly the size of a match head when fully grown, and usually grey or brown in colour. Head lice cannot fly, jump or swim, but are spread by clambering from head to head. There tends to be a peak in head lice outbreaks when children return to school in the Autumn, and it is estimated that one in ten primary school children are affected by head lice every year. Head lice are not fussy about hair length or condition. Clean hair is no protection. The eggs are very small, dull in colour and well camouflaged. They take 7-10 days to hatch. Empty egg sacs are white and shiny and may be found further along the hair shaft, as the hair grows out. Lice take 7-14 days to become full grown and able to mate, whereupon the female begins laying eggs.

Lice are most easily detected by fine tooth combing really wet hair. If no lice can be found by careful combing of shampooed hair from the roots, there is no need to consider applying head lice treatments (lotions or rinses). If head lice are discovered, then there are two options to deal with the problem:

1. "Wet Combing" method

Head lice may be cleared over a two week period by the following method:

- Wash the hair with an ordinary shampoo:
- Using lots of hair conditioner and while the hair is very wet, comb through the hair from the roots with a fine tooth comb. Make sure the teeth of the comb slot into the hair at the roots with every stroke, and do this over a pale surface, such as a paper towel or the bath:
- Clear the comb of lice between each stroke;





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- Wet lice find it difficult to escape, and hair that is slippery from conditioner makes it hard for the lice to escape.
- **If you find any lice, then repeat this routine every 3-4 days for 2 weeks, so that any lice emerging from the eggs are removed before they can spread.**

2. Using Lotions

Your health visitor or local pharmacist will be able to recommend lotions and rinses which are specially made to kill lice and their eggs quickly and safely. Your pharmacist will be able to explain the correct way to use the product. If the problem persists then you should discuss this further with your family doctor.

To ensure that the school is cleared of this outbreak, it is important that every pupil and their entire family follow a close inspection of their hair to ensure that we clear this infection from the school. We need your assistance to stop this outbreak from becoming widespread around the school, so please ensure that tonight and over the next few days you check every member of your family regularly and if head lice are found you follow either of the treatments suggested above.

Thank you very much in advance for your help with this very important health issue.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Maureen Duncan
Head Teacher

