



Headlice Information

- * Headlice are caught by close contact with an already infested child. They do not jump or fly, nor are they passed from one child to another in large numbers.
- * Usually, one louse crawls into the hair and lays 8–10 eggs each night. They can often be found behind the ears because lice like the warmth of the child's head on the pillow.
- * One easy way of stopping them laying eggs is by combing the hair at night as this damages the lice – “if you break their legs they can't lay eggs”.
- * **Itching** is a **late** sign of headlice, by which time there may be many lice and many eggs. Do not use itching as a means of deciding whether headlice are present or not. The best way of reducing the problem of headlice is to check your child's hair every week.
- * Headlice eggs take 7–10 days to hatch so weekly checks will identify eggs before they hatch.
- * Newly hatched lice do not lay eggs so lice and eggs in large numbers are not the result of recent infestation.
- * Any crawling insect or unexplained white or brown flecks in the hair close to the scalp could be headlice.
- * If lice are present use a product from your chemist, who will advise you as to a suitable remedy. It is important to follow the instructions carefully. If any lice are found please treat yourselves as well as the children before returning them to school.
- * **Can children with long hair please have their hair tied back for school.**