



**ST LUKE'S C OF E
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Work Together - Grow Together - Flourish Together

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed...Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches".

Matthew 13:31-32

Monday 10th March, 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Head lice

We have received a reported case of headlice or 'nits' in school, so we wanted to keep you informed. Headlice in primary schools are very common and whilst lice are nothing more than a nuisance, it is important that during this time your child/ren are checked on a weekly basis, so that the headlice can be dealt with quickly and before they are allowed to spread.

As a school we want to ensure parents/carers are provided with the advice and support to effectively detect and treat cases of head lice affecting their own children. For information on how to spot, treat and prevent head lice you may wish to visit [NHS Choices](#) (click the link) or The charity Community Hygiene Concern has a [video about wet combing](#) (click the link) .

We understand your frustrations and concerns regarding head lice so here are some answers to some common questions:

Who is responsible for the prevention of head lice? It remains parental responsibility to detect and administer treatment for head lice to their own children.

Why do you not exclude children from school who have head lice? The Department for Children, Schools and Families advises that pupils should not be excluded. The reason for this is that although head lice are unpleasant it is not classed as an infectious disease, which warrants keeping a pupil away from school.

What is the school doing to help control infection? Although schools no longer have 'nit nurses' we do recognise that we still have an important role in supporting parents in managing the problem. By working closely with parents and our pupils we can hopefully make a difference. If noticed by school staff, we will provide advice and support to parents on detection and treatment. If your child is suspected of having head lice we will inform you and request that you check your child and treat if necessary.

What can I do as a parent to help control infection? As previously mentioned, it is parental responsibility to detect and administer treatment for head lice to their own children. You can help by checking your child for head lice once a week using a nit comb which are available from the local chemist. Even if your child has not complained about an itchy head, we would encourage you to take a peek in your child's hair to check that they are not infected. We understand many children like to wear their hair down but we do request that long hair is tied up to minimise head-to-head contact in school.

Treating head lice is not a problem. Detection and effective ongoing treatment of head lice is key to reducing the outbreaks.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Phillips
Head Teacher

