



A heads-up from Boss Louse™

St Berteline's Church of England Primary School Watch out 'Little Visitors' are about.

Ah, the joys of having a child in school !

I just thought I'd send a note home reminding parents to check their child's hair regularly. Like all schools, from time to time we have a minor outbreak of headlice – and over the past fortnight three or four parents have kindly phoned in to say that they have treated their children. Thank you very much to those parents.

When parents do phone in we check the rest of the class. This head check is done sympathetically and we never let the children know if we find anything. The reason for checking is just to try to make sure there are no children in school actually passing on live visitors. The best place to check of course is at home – when your child is in the bath. Children's hair should be checked at least once per week.

What are you looking for?

A head check will rarely reveal live lice – they are tiny and also able to change their colour to the colour of the child's scalp. You are also unlikely to see live eggs – but what you may see are the silver shiny empty eggs which are called 'nits'. If you find nits then the chances are there are (or has been) live lice.

What should you do if you find lice?

We try to have a school policy whereby no child in school has live lice. If we do find lice therefore, we are likely to give you a call and ask you to pick your child up and treat them. If you find lice at home then please let us know. We never embarrass children by announcing that anyone has had lice – but we do check their class – just to try to prevent spreading!!! You should also check the rest of the family – especially people who don't get checked very often, ie dad, mum, granny, granddad, babysitter, and anyone else who may have had head-to-head contact with your child – after all – they caught them somewhere!!

How to prevent headlice

Groom hair regularly – brush or comb your child's hair at least twice a day.

Learn how to check for lice – check the family once a week. If you find any 'small game' comb them out. Use a fine toothed comb available from the chemist or from the school office.

If you need to treat your child's hair with lotion – please read the instructions on the bottle carefully.

Ask the health centre or the chemist for help.

BE OPEN – TELL YOUR FRIENDS – MAKE A JOKE – NEVER THINK OF HEADLICE AS BEING SHAMEFUL (ANYONE CAN CATCH THEM AND, WHAT'S MORE THEY PREFER CLEAN HAIR).

If you would like more information then please pick up a fact sheet from school.

LET'S KEEP THE CAP ON HEADLICE !