



Queen Eleanor's Church of England Junior School

Queen Eleanor's Road, Onslow Village, Guildford, GU2 7SD

Headteacher: Roger Blackburn

Deputy Headteacher: Paul Day

Tel: 01483 561323

e-mail: [office@queen-eleanors.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:office@queen-eleanors.surrey.sch.uk)

Dear Parents,

Please note that there has been a case of head lice found in your child's class and we would be grateful if you would check your child's hair tonight and treat it accordingly, if necessary. Many thanks.

### **Treating head lice**

#### **Wet-combing method**

The wet-combing method involves removing the head lice by systematically combing the hair using a special fine-toothed comb with a spacing of less than 0.3mm. Your pharmacist can advise you on which combs are suitable. No medicated products are necessary for wet combing. This can be beneficial because head lice are becoming more resistant to the insecticides that are commonly used to remove them.

However, the success of the wet-combing method depends on adopting a painstaking approach that involves regular and thorough combing. The wet-combing method is described below:

- Wash the hair using ordinary shampoo and apply ample conditioner, before using a wide-toothed comb to straighten and untangle the hair.
- Once the comb moves freely through the hair without dragging, switch to the louse comb. Make sure that the teeth of the comb slot into the hair at the roots with the bevel-edge of the teeth lightly touching the scalp.
- Draw the comb down to the ends of the hair with every stroke and check the comb for lice.
- Remove lice by wiping or rinsing the comb.
- Work methodically through the hair section by section so that the whole head of hair is combed through.
- Rinse out the conditioner and repeat the combing procedure in the wet hair.
- Ideally you should repeat the procedure daily but especially on day 5, 9 and 13 in order to clear the young lice as they hatch, before they have time to reach maturity.

#### **Medicated lotion or spray**

Medicated lotion or spray is an alternative method for treating head lice. However, no medicated treatment is 100% effective. Your pharmacist will be able to recommend an over-the-counter lotion or spray.

Always read the instructions carefully before using medicated head lice lotions.

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We hope this information will be useful in stamping out the problem.

Roger Blackburn  
Headteacher