

Priory Infant School

Head Lice Information Sheet

The facts

- Head lice are equally at home in clean as well as dirty hair, on short as well as long hair
- Head lice take 6 - 7 days to reach maturity before they lay eggs and eggs take 7 - 10 days to hatch

What to look for

- Excessive itching of the scalp
- A small brownish/grey insect close to the scalp
- Tiny brown eggs glued to hair strands close to the scalp
- NITS - hatched louse eggs are more white in appearance



Prevention

- Long hair should be tied back all the time at school
- Check all the family once a week
- Use the "wet comb" method to check hair
- Lotion should not be used as a preventative, only when live lice are present

Treatment

- If live lice are found, ideally treat with chemical solution (as recommended by Kent Health Protection Unit). **This is the only method that kills live lice and eggs.**
- Alternatively, and as a maintenance treatment, wet comb:
 - wet hair and cover in conditioner
 - use a nit comb and comb hair section by section, from root to tip, wiping comb clean after every stroke (you may need to poke out live lice from teeth of comb)
 - rinse hair, leave wet, and comb again
 - repeat **at least** three times a week until clear and then regularly to check for re-infection.