



Ryecroft C.E. (C) Middle School

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Dear Parents

Head Lice

We have had several cases of head lice reported in school. You may be aware that head lice are always a problem in the community, although you may be fortunate not to have had head lice in your family. However it is important to remember that nobody is immune.

Head lice are a widespread and sometimes unpleasant infection, especially among school-age children.

Common misconceptions are:

- *They are a symptom of poor hair hygiene* - this is not true. Lice are equally likely to be found on clean or dirty hair!
- *That only very young children get head lice* – again this is not true. Contrary to popular belief, head lice cannot jump, hop or fly, but are spread by sustained, direct, head to head contact. Children often get head lice from close contact when playing together, whispering, hugging or when they are in close contact with an infected adult. The truth is that anyone can get head lice - not just children and not just girls!

We would therefore like to remind you just how important it is to regularly check your child's hair. This will help to prevent outbreaks at school. We suggest that children with long hair have it tied back.

Please remember that if your child has head lice, it is likely that other members of your family are also infected and so everyone including adults should be checked too.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

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