

FRAMPTON COTTERELL CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

Head Lice

We are currently having repeated outbreaks of head lice in some of the classes in school. Parents who are treating their children promptly are feeling understandably despondent when their children are re-infected. We understand that treating head lice can be difficult so I have downloaded some information from the NHS website that you may find useful. The link is <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Head-lice/Pages/Treatment.aspx>

Head lice can sometimes be difficult to treat due to a high re-infestation rate and their ability to develop resistance to traditional insecticides contained in some medications. After a head lice infestation has been confirmed, you can treat the lice at home by wet comb using a head lice comb or medicated lotions (see below).

However, neither treatment method will protect against re-infestation if head-to-head contact is made with someone with head lice during the treatment period.

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.

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.

Medicated treatments should only be used if a living (moving) head louse is found. Crème rinses and shampoos are not thought to be effective and are therefore not recommended.

Follow the instructions that come with the medicated lotion or spray when applying it. Depending on the product you are using, the length of time that it needs to be left on the head can vary from 10 minutes to 8 hours.

The normal advice is to treat once, then repeat after seven days. Some medicated products also supply a comb for removing dead lice and eggs.

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A minimum of two applications of lotion are needed to kill the lice over the hatching period because the lotions do not always kill louse eggs.

I also have some leaflets that the school nurse recommended that you may pick up in the foyer of the school office. Please remember that a head lice infestation is not the result of dirty hair or poor hygiene. Head lice can affect all types of hair irrespective of its condition and length.

Yours sincerely

Kathryn Schofield
Admin

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