

HEADLICE

General Information –

1. The human head louse is small and lives near the scalp.
2. Transmission occurs with head to head contact, lice cannot fly or jump.
3. By the time a child starts to itch they have had head lice for at least a month.
4. Female louse lays 6-8 eggs every 24 hours; eggs are glued tightly to the hair close to the scalp.
5. It takes only 10 days for a head louse to reach maturity.
6. Hatched empty egg shells are called NITS, they are white and stay attached to the hair as it grows.
7. Headlice are not removed by washing.

Control of Head lice –

1. Check hair regularly by 'detection combing'- combing the hair using a fine detector comb.
2. A Pharmacist can recommend suitable lotions to treat head lice, but only use when a living, moving louse has been found.
3. A routine weekly check using a fine toothed comb is recommended to prevent head lice getting established.
4. Long hair must be tied back during school time.

If all parents check their child's hair regularly, we could reduce this problem in school.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHILD'S HAIR TONIGHT!