



St. John's
C. of E. Primary School
Abram

St. John's C. of E. Primary School
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Monday 13th November 2017

Dear Parent/Carers,

We write to advise that we have recently had a couple of instances of threadworm and wish to ask for your help in addressing this problem. The key to dealing with the problem is prevention and early detection.

The following comes from a paper issued by the Health Authority:

Threadworms lay eggs around an infected person's bottom, usually at night. Along with the eggs, the worm also secretes a mucus that causes itching.

If the eggs get stuck on the person's fingertips when they scratch, they can be transferred to their mouth or on to surfaces and clothes. If other people touch an infected surface, they can then transfer the eggs to their mouth.

Threadworm eggs can survive for up to two weeks before hatching. If the eggs hatch around the bottom, the newborn worms can re-enter the bowel. Eggs that have been swallowed will hatch inside the intestine. After two weeks, the worms reach adult size and begin to reproduce, starting the cycle again.

If you or your child has threadworms, everyone in your household will need to be treated as there's a high risk of the infection spreading. This includes those who don't have any symptoms of an infection.

During treatment and for a few weeks afterwards, it's also important to follow strict hygiene measures to avoid spreading the threadworms eggs. This includes regularly vacuuming your house and thoroughly washing your bathroom and kitchen.

If you're pregnant or breastfeeding, hygiene measures are usually recommended without medication. This is also often the case for young children.

It's not always possible to prevent a threadworm infection, but you can significantly reduce your risk by always maintaining good hygiene and encouraging children to do the same.

Children should wash their hands regularly, particularly after going to the toilet and before mealtimes. Kitchen and bathroom surfaces should be kept clean.

If your child is infected, encouraging them not to scratch the affected area around their bottom or vagina will help prevent reinfection and reduce the risk of the infection spreading to others.

If you have any questions please come into school. We hope you find this information useful and wish to thank you for your assistance.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Butcher.
Acting Principal.