



BANWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Belong Believe Achieve

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Dear Parents and Carers

HEAD LICE – In your child's class

Unfortunately, despite our **Once a week, Take a Peek!** drive to reduce the incidents of head lice, we have been notified that a child in your child's class has had and been treated for head lice this week. Even if you have already taken a peek this week at your child's hair, please could you use the dry or wet detection method to check the hair **everyone** living in your house. Head lice can live in adult's as well as children's hair. We have free head lice detection combs available in the school office, please ask your child to collect one, or come to the office at the start or end of the school day.

Detection combing

Detection combing can be carried out on dry or wet hair. Less preparation is needed to comb dry hair, but wet combing is more accurate because lice remain motionless when wet.

Wet detection combing

Follow the steps below for wet detection combing.

- Wash hair using ordinary shampoo and apply plenty of conditioner. Use a wide-toothed comb to straighten and untangle the hair.
- Once the comb moves freely through the hair without dragging, switch to the head lice detection comb. Make sure the teeth of the comb slot into the hair at the roots with the bevel-edge of the teeth lightly touching the scalp.
- Draw the comb down to the ends of the hair with every stroke, and check the comb for lice.
- Remove lice by wiping or rinsing the comb.
- Work methodically through the hair, section by section, so that the whole head of hair is combed through.
- Rinse out the conditioner and repeat the combing procedure in the wet hair.

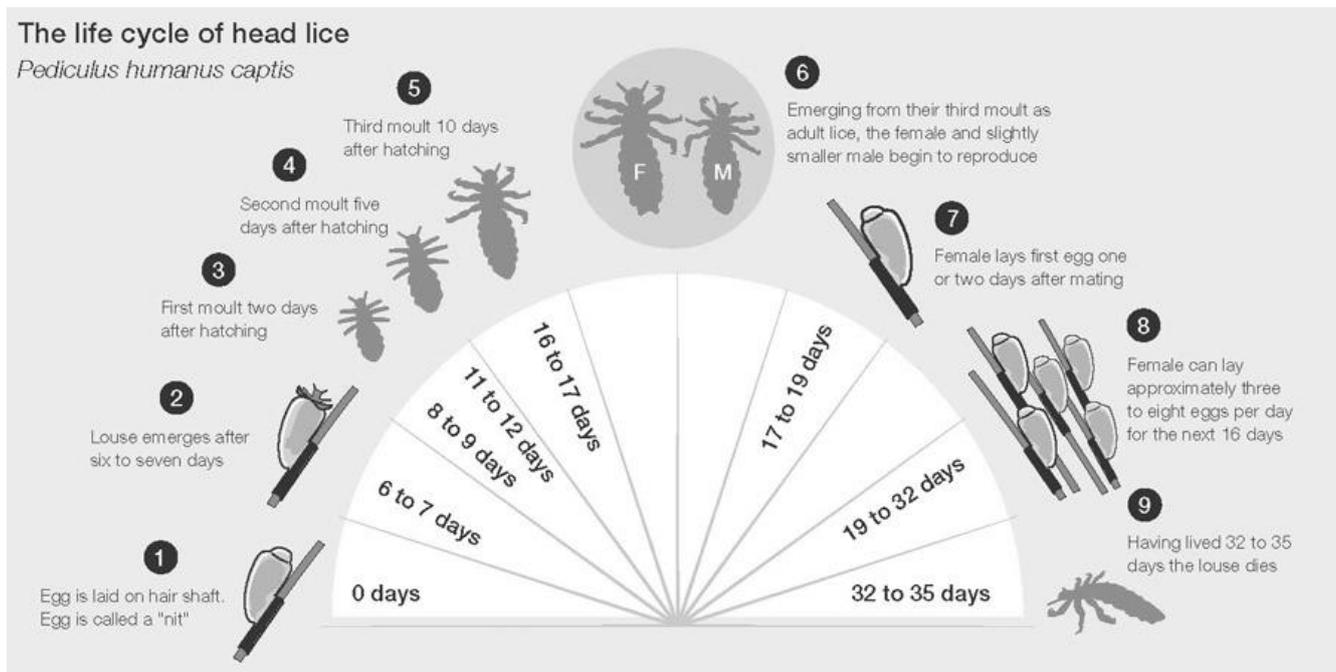
Dry detection combing

Follow the steps below for dry detection combing.

- Use an ordinary comb to straighten and untangle the hair.
- Once the comb moves freely through the hair without dragging, switch to the louse detection comb. Comb the hair from the scalp to the end of the hair, combing each section of hair 3-4 times before moving on to the next section.
- Look for lice as the comb is drawn through the hair. If you see a louse, trap it against the face of the comb with your thumb. This helps to avoid the louse being repelled by static electricity as the comb is removed from the hair.
- Continue combing the hair, section by section, until the whole head has been combed through.

Remember, if you find head lice it will be necessary to repeat this washing, conditioning and combing process **every third day for two weeks**. This is to clear newly hatched lice and to prevent more eggs being laid.

The diagram below shows the life cycle of a headlice and demonstrates the need to *Take a Peek Once a Week* as the life cycle of a headlice can be long if not removed from a child's head.



Other ways to reduce the spread of headlice is to tie long hair back, not share hats or combs. If headlice have been found ensure that all bedding is washed thoroughly.

Should you need further advice, please contact your Health Visitor or look at the latest NHS advice <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Head-lice/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Thank you for your help in reducing the incidents of head lice in the school.

Yours sincerely,

CLAIRE POCOCK
Headteacher

