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Sandal Castle (VA) Community Primary School
Headteacher: Mrs C Butterworth
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22nd January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Head Lice

I regret to inform you that we have had a few reported incidents of head lice (nits) in school. It is in the interest of your child and all other children in the class that you check your child's hair. The only way of eradicating the problem is through **constant** vigilance.

The current advice still seems to be for 'lots of hair conditioner and fine tooth combing' as the most effective way of checking in order to get rid of the problem.



Thank you for your support in this matter.

NHS Advice

Head lice are spread by direct head to head contact. They climb from one person's hair to another's.

Head lice:

- can't fly, jump or swim
- are very unlikely to be spread by objects like hats, combs and pillows
- don't have a preference for dirty, clean, short or long hair
- only affect people
- can't be caught from animals

Once detached from the hair, head lice will usually die within 12 to 24 hours.

Preventing head lice

It's very difficult to prevent head lice. You may want to consider regular detection combing if you're concerned about your children or yourself. For example, on a weekly basis. Lotions and sprays don't prevent head lice and should only be used if a live louse has been found in your or your child's hair.

Staying off school and washing clothing and bedding on a hot wash is unnecessary, as it's unlikely to help prevent the spread of head lice.

