Dear Parent/Guardian

Pediculosis (Head Lice) has been confirmed in your child’s class. In an endeavour to break the Head Lice cycle, could you please examine your child’s hair for signs of lice, or eggs, by following the advice below.

Remember that head lice are only about 2 – 4 mm long and are often hard to see. They can move at up to 30 cm per minute and will rapidly run away when the hair is parted to search for them. Applying hair conditioner to dry hair slows them down, so they can be trapped with a metal ‘nit’ comb.

**How should I look for head lice and/or eggs (nits)?**

- **To check hair effectively for eggs**, use a magnifying glass in strong light (eg sunlight) to examine the hair shafts close to the scalp, especially behind the ears and at the nape of the neck. Eggs look like grains of salt and are glued tightly to the hair shaft.
- **To check hair effectively for head lice**, carefully comb enough hair conditioner through the dry hair to thoroughly saturate the hair. Then, divide the hair into small sections and comb again, section-by-section, using a metal fine tooth ‘nit’ comb. The hair conditioner slows the head lice down so they can be trapped by the metal ‘nit’ comb.
- Continue combing the whole head in this way. Wipe the combings on a white tissue or paper towel and examine with a magnifying glass in strong light, eg sunlight, to look for head lice and eggs.
- Rinse the conditioner out when finished and dry the hair.
- Continue the hair conditioner treatment daily for the next 10 days **only** if lice have been found. Remember to comb.
- If lice are found, it is important to **check all other household members as well**. Combing their hair with hair conditioner as described above will make this task easier and more effective. Remember to **check extended family members** (eg grandparents) also if they have had close head-to-head contact with anyone found to have head lice.

Further information and advice is available from the Community Health Nurse. Ask the school Registrar for the Community Health Nurses’ phone number.

Yours Faithfully

Mrs Narelle Bailey
Deputy Principal
Dear ___________________

At school today your child ___________________ was found to have Head Lice.

Head lice are tiny insects that live in human hair. They are not caused by poor hygiene and they do not carry diseases. Head lice transfer from child to child when heads are close together, eg while playing or doing schoolwork. For this reason Head Lice infestation is relatively common in primary school children.

Under the School Education Act (1999), Section 27(2) the School Principal may exclude your child from school until all Head Lice have been removed. A few remaining eggs are not a valid reason for exclusion, provided treatment has been started.

For further advice you can ring or make an appointment to see the Community (School) Health Nurse. Ask the School registrar for the Nurse’s contact phone number.

Finally, please complete the section below and send it back to the class teacher when your child returns to school following the commencement of Head Lice treatment.

Yours faithfully

Narelle Bailey
Deputy Principal

CONFIRMATION OF COMMENCEMENT OF HEAD LICE TREATMENT

Child’s Name___________________________   Date treatment commenced ____/____/____

Treatment used:
Hair Conditioner ☐   Insecticide ☐

Other (please describe) _______________________________________________

- I understand that Head Lice treatment must continue over a 10 day period.
- I have read the enclosed Department of Health Head Lice Fact Sheet.

Parent/Guardian Signature___________________________   Date ____/____/____