



# HEADLICE



21<sup>st</sup> November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

*Cases of headlice have been reported in the school. Please check your child's hair. Headlice **must** be treated before children return to school. On return to school your child needs to bring in a written note stating they have been treated for head lice.*

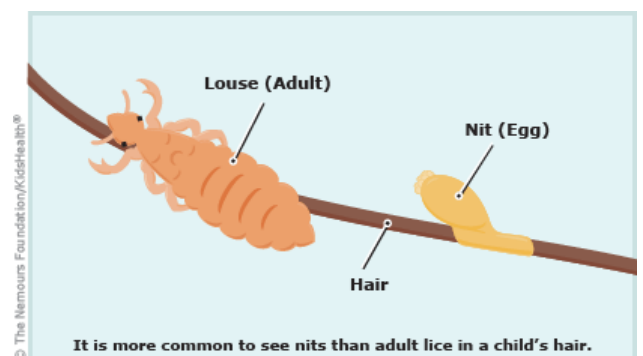
Below is an explanation about Head Lice:

The head louse is a tiny, wingless parasitic insect that lives among human hairs and feeds on tiny amounts of blood drawn from the scalp. Lice (the plural of louse) are a very common problem, especially for kids. They're contagious, annoying, and sometimes tough to get rid of.

But while they're frustrating to deal with, lice aren't dangerous. They don't spread disease, although their bites can make a child's scalp itchy and irritated, and scratching can lead to infection.

It's best to treat head lice quickly once they're found because they can spread easily from person to person.

Adult lice and nymphs (baby lice). The adult louse is no bigger than a sesame seed and is grayish-white or tan. Nymphs are smaller and become adult lice about 1 to 2 weeks after they hatch. If head lice are not treated, this process repeats itself about every 3 weeks. Most lice feed on blood several times a day, and they can survive up to 2 days off the scalp.



Simon Smith  
Principal  
Gowrie Primary School