

# St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School



*To Love and Serve as Jesus Shows Us*

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a couple of cases of head lice in the school and would ask that you please check your children's hair and treat as necessary. Current advice is to use wet combing as described below or get further advice from your pharmacist for a chemical treatment.

**Wet combing** involves removing head lice with a special fine-toothed comb. It's suitable for everyone and is relatively inexpensive.

A number of lice removal combs are available to buy. Combs with flat-faced teeth spaced 0.2-0.3mm apart are best for removing head lice, although combs with smaller gaps can be used to remove eggs and nits (egg cases) after treatment.

The comb may come with instructions outlining how to use it. A commonly used method is described below.

- Wash the hair with ordinary shampoo and apply plenty of conditioner.
- Use an ordinary, wide-toothed comb to straighten and untangle the hair.
- Once the comb moves freely through the hair without dragging, switch to the louse detection comb.
- Make sure the teeth of the comb slot into the hair at the roots, with the edge of the teeth lightly touching the scalp.
- Draw the comb down from the roots to the ends of the hair with every stroke, and check the comb for lice each time – remove lice by wiping the comb with tissue paper or rinsing it.
- Work through the hair, section by section, so that the whole head of hair is combed through.
- Do this at least twice to help ensure you haven't missed any areas, until no more lice are found.



Repeat this procedure on days five, nine and 13. Detection combing should be done on day 17, to check for any live head lice.

Then use the comb every time your child washes their hair to ensure there has been no reinfection.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Mr D Vernon

Headteacher