



Scoil Chroí Ró Naofa

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A GREEN SCHOOL

HEAD LICE

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Unfortunately, we have to write to you again concerning head lice in your child's class. It has been brought to our attention that the issue still remains in your child's classroom.

From discussing this issue with parents who have successfully dealt with the problem, please find below further information:

With all the treatments available parents seem to find the **Full Marks** brand the most effective. It isn't that expensive and you will get multiple treatments from one bottle.

The treatment doesn't remove the nits from the hair so these need to be removed with a fine tooth comb or using your nails.

Once head lice enter your hair they start to lay eggs (nits) straight away, these can sometimes be more noticeable than the Head lice as the can't move and seem to glisten in the light (they are also more noticeable when the hair is wet)

The time frame for removing head lice is 11 days.

Eggs laid on day 1 can take up to 10 days to hatch, and once they hatch they cannot lay eggs until they are 7 days old, therefore you need to **treat your child in the following way:**

- **Day 1** - this will kill any lice in the hair but the nits will continue to hatch in the days following this so you need to treat your child's hair again on
- **Day 6** - before the new lice can start to lay eggs of their own, but again any remaining nits can continue to hatch up to day 10 so you need to treat the hair again on
- **Day 11** - If you follow the instructions above it should clear your child's hair from the infestation, but do bear in mind that the shell of the nit will still stick to the hair until it is either removed or grows out.

From our experience the ongoing problem can be usually attributed to two issues –

1. Some parents are not informing the school when their child has head lice ~ this is very important. If you do not wish to send a note with your child please ring the school. All information is confidential. Please reassure your child that it is not his/her fault that he/she has got head lice as they are attracted to clean hair. Any child with long hair must have it tied up neatly at school.

2. Some families are not treating the problem fully. After rinsing out the head lice lotion you need to remove all the eggs from the hair. This can only be done with a very fine comb or in some cases using your nails. You need to go through each strand of hair and make sure that all of the eggs are gone. This is a slow process but is the only way to ensure that the head lice are completely gone.

The fine combing after treatment is vital to remove all traces of the head lice.

We insist that you check your child's hair at home and if you do find an infestation please treat as directed above to prevent the continuing spread of head lice. Please also check your child's clothing, including their coats, for any evidence of head lice and treat accordingly.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation with this matter.

Is mise le meas,

Maria Brophy

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