

## St. Joseph's Primary School

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*God Lives in Us*

### Head Lice ~ Important Information:

Dear parents,

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>. June 2012

We have had continued reports of head lice in the classrooms. Many thanks to the vigilant parents who passed on this information to the school so that we can provide the latest information and encourage all families to regularly check for head lice. As per school policy, teachers have been requested to conduct checks in rooms.

***The most appropriate and successful strategy for addressing head lice is for families to regularly check their hair and treat as required.***

Children may return to school once treatment is commenced.

Head lice are common in school-aged children and are the most adaptable of creatures.

They have survived solely on humans for 10,000 years.

You may be reassured to know that they are commonly found in places other than our school.

Some of the reasons they have survived for as long as they have:

- The six legs of a louse end in a claw, allowing them to firmly grip the hair.
- They detect vibration and can hide (conditioner will help with this problem).
- Head lice can 'hold' their breath for 20 minutes – looking like they are dead.
- The eggs are attached to the hair with a 'glue'-like substance.

The good news is: We know where they live and we know how to find them.

If you follow these steps once a week the control of head lice in your home will be greatly improved.

Step 1: Comb inexpensive hair conditioner on to dry, brushed (detangled) hair.

(This makes it difficult for lice to grip the hair or run around.)

Step 2: Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto a paper towel or tissue.

Step 3: Look on the tissue and comb for head lice and eggs.

Step 4: If lice or eggs are found, the child should be treated.

Step 5: If the child has been treated recently and only hatched eggs are found, you may not have to treat, since the eggs could be from an older infection.

If your child has head lice – tell anyone who has head to head contact with them and ask them to check their family for head lice.

Also, please inform the school so we can inform our families that cases have been reported.

Please find attached an information sheet from the Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria, which provides a wealth of information concerning head lice, including treatment advice.

Kind regards,

Stephen Hicks  
Principal