



Special Notice: 52/2022-23

21.11.2022

To: Parents / Guardians of 5C,

Be Vigilant Against the spread of Communicable Diseases in School

One student in 5C has been found to suffer from head lice. Parents are advised to check your child's hair. In case your child has head lice and their eggs on the hair, please report to the class teacher as soon as possible and seek medical help. The following information is from Centre of Health Protection (Department of Health).

Causative agent

Head lice, *Pediculus humanus capitis*, are tiny parasites (up to 3mm long) that only live on the human head. They are usually found on the hair, most often around the hairline behind the ears or near the neck, and occasionally on the eyebrows or beard.

Clinical features

The most common symptom is itching and tickling sensation on the scalp. Excessive scratching may cause bleeding or sores on the scalp, increasing the risk of skin infection.

Under careful inspection, eggs of head lice can be found near the root of the hair. They are different from dandruff. Eggs are usually white or yellow in colour, oval in shape and firmly attached to hair shafts; while dandruff is flaky and loose enough to fall off easily.

Mode of transmission

The lice move by crawling; they cannot jump or fly from one hair to another. The main mode of transmission is through head-to-head contact with an infested person, and less commonly through sharing of personal items such as combs, hats or hair accessories. Anyone may catch head lice. However, young children are of higher risk because they often come into close contact with one another while playing.

Incubation period

The life cycle of head lice goes through 3 stages: the eggs, the nymphs and the adults. The eggs hatch in 7 - 10 days; the nymphs take 7 - 12 days to become adults, which can reproduce in huge numbers. Both nymphs and adults feed on human blood. Adult lice can live up to 30 days but usually die within 2 days once they fall off from the human body.

Management

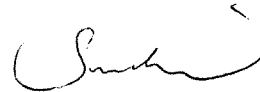
- If you suspect head lice infestation, seek medical advice immediately.
- Apply medicated lotion or shampoo according to doctor's prescription to kill the lice.
- Use a fine-toothed comb to remove the lice and eggs. Remember to discard the eggs properly.
- Wash personal items such as brushes, combs, hats and bed linen with hot water and detergent thoroughly.
- Screen household contacts and close contacts of infested people for head lice and treat them accordingly.

Prevention

- Avoid close contact with infested people, especially head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact.
- Do not share personal items such as combs, hats, hair accessories, towels or pillows.
- Check hair regularly for signs of head lice infestation.

We would like to appeal to parents again for co-operation in maintaining a clean and healthy household environment. Please also remind your children to pay attention to personal hygiene and to take all necessary preventive measures against communicable diseases.

Thank you for your attention.



(Ms CHUI Sau-man)
Headmistress