

Date:

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Head Lice information: Lice outbreaks are very common among school children. Head lice do not carry any disease and their presence does not indicate a lack of cleanliness. We would like to give you some information that will be helpful to you in keeping your child free of lice.

Some things you may do to help are:

(Lice Illustration)



1. **Examine your child** every day for live lice or nits, using a bright light or sunlight. Lice are crawling insects, about the size of a sesame seed, usually found at the nape of the neck and behind the ears. They do not jump or fly, but can move very quickly. Nits are the eggs, which are laid close to the scalp and are attached **firmly** to the hair shaft. They are usually light colored and cannot be easily brushed or flicked out of the hair. You may find nits even when unable to detect live lice. Often children will complain of their head itching.
2. If lice or nits are found:
 - **Notify the school.** The school staff will check your child upon return to school.
 - Do not let your child attend school until treatment is completed (examples of treatment include: prescription medications, over the counter lice shampoos, homeopathic treatment and nit picking). Your child may not return to school until there is no evidence of live lice.
 - Comb out nits with a fine tooth stainless steel comb or remove them from the hair shaft with your fingers.
 - Continue to check for live lice and nits daily for a minimum of 2 weeks.
 - Consult with your child's health care provider, health center, or pharmacist for treatment and retreatment instructions or questions.
 - Retreatment may be necessary.
3. If head lice or nits are not found:
 - **Continue to examine your child's hair** periodically during the school year.
 - Do not begin any special treatment. *Using chemical lice treatments has not been proven to be preventative, and is not recommended if no evidence of lice.
 - Instruct your child not to share personal items such as combs, brushes, scarves, hats or coats with other children. Lice are spread by contact; they do not jump or fly from one person to the next.

Mimosa Elementary is responding by continuously monitoring known cases and will continue to check students in the classrooms as deemed appropriate.

I hope this information will be helpful in keeping your child free of lice. If you have further questions concerning head lice, please call your child's health care provider or the School Clinic at 770-552-4540. Information is also available at the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/index.html>

Thank you,

Principal