



# Headlice

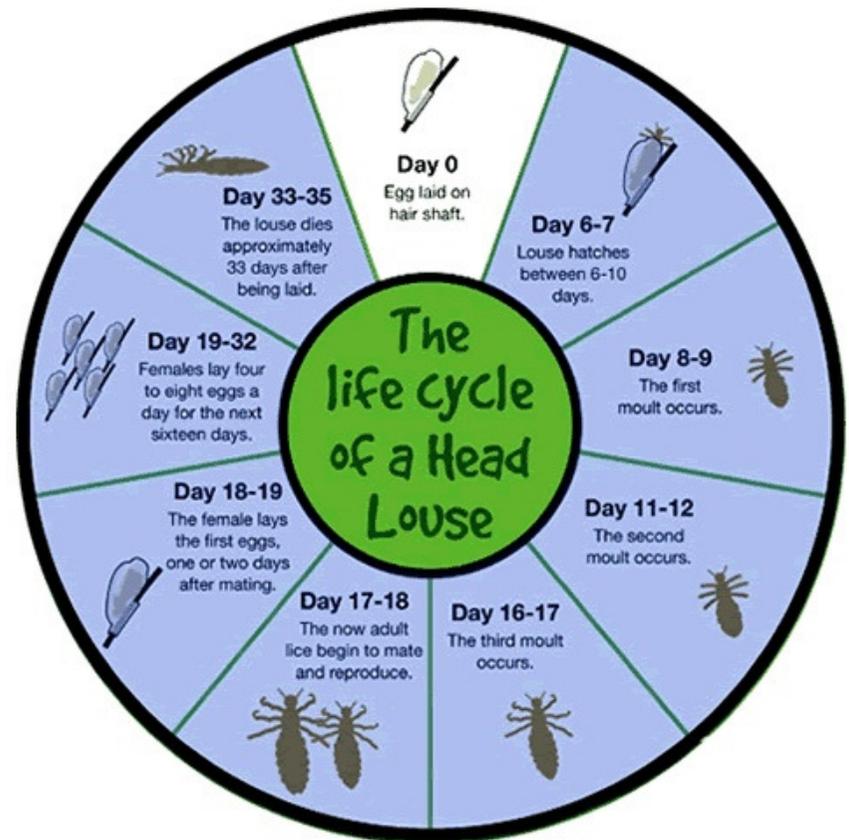
## A Guide for Parents & Carers



### Introduction

Hoyland Springwood Primary School is committed to ensuring the health and wellbeing of all members of our school community. Headlice are a persistent problem within all schools. This leaflet has been designed to support parents in identifying when their child has headlice and providing appropriate treatment.

### The Lifecycle of a Head Louse



## Checking Hair for Lice and Eggs

To check your child's hair, you will need a fine tooth comb, (a 'nit comb',) these are available to buy from the school office or from local chemists, and some cheap conditioner.

Wash your child's hair and apply plenty of conditioner which should be left in. Brush or comb your child's hair first to remove any tangles. Then, with a towel around his/her shoulders, comb through small sections of the hair with the fine tooth comb, starting at the root and working through to the tip. After each run through, check the comb for any lice or eggs and wipe the comb before starting the next section.

If you find lice or eggs, please let school know.

## Treatment

There are a wide range of treatments available for headlice. However, these can often be costly and the effectiveness of some has not always been proven.

We would suggest that parents follow a programme of regular checking and combing in order to eliminate any lice or eggs. This should take about 30 minutes each time. This should be carried out at 4-day intervals for a period of at least 2 weeks. Combing should only be stopped once no lice are found on 3 consecutive sessions.

If lice or eggs are found, towels and bedding should be washed on a hot wash and all members of the family should be checked and treated.

## School Support

Our Parent Support Adviser, Miss Lynda Smith, is happy to provide advice and support for parents regarding headlice.

Fine tooth combs for checking hair and removing lice and eggs can be bought at cost price from the school office.



A magnified photo of a head louse.



Egg cases on a child's head. These can look like little shiny white bits. It is important that all of these are removed to ensure that no further lice hatch.