

St. Luke's

Catholic Primary School
SHEPPARTON

Dear Parents,

We have had a couple of 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, particularly during the warmer weather. The most appropriate strategy for addressing head lice is for families to regularly check their hair and treat when required.

Children may return to school once treatment has commenced.

Head lice are common in school-aged children and are the most adaptable of creatures. They have survived living solely on humans for 10,000 years. You may be reassured to know that they are commonly found in places other than St. Luke's Catholic PS.

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

- ❖ The six legs of a louse end in claw, allowing them to grip the hair
- ❖ They detect vibration and can hide (conditioner will help with this problem)
- ❖ Head lice can 'hold' their breath for 20mins – 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.

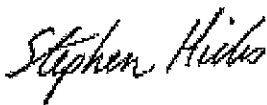
If you follow these steps once a week the control of head lice in your home will be greatly improved.

- 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 lice and eggs.
- Step 4. If lice or eggs are found, the child should be treated.
- Step 4. 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 the old infection.

If your child has head lice -- tell anyone who has had head to head contact with them and ask them to check their family for head lice. Also, please inform the school so that we can inform our families that cases have been reported. (Confidentiality is respected!)

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

Kind Regards



Stephen Hicks
Principal