

URSULA TAYLOR VC LOWER SCHOOL

23rd January 2009 Newsletter

Parent Questionnaires

First of all many thanks to everyone who took time to complete our questionnaire. There has been a tremendous response and we are about to start our analysis. I know that your responses to the questions regarding the swimming pool will enable the Governing Body to make decisions based on your opinions and commitment. We will let you know as soon as we can the feedback from the questionnaires and what we shall be doing as a result.

Headlice – let's have a bug busting weekend!

Once again this is a problem throughout the school. Please could everyone check their child's hair carefully this weekend and treat if necessary. This could really help to alleviate the problem across the school.

What is the best way of looking for head lice?

You can part the hair and look for nits, but the lice will move quickly into hiding.

1. Buy a special comb from the chemist
2. You can check for lice on dry or wet hair.
3. Use a brush or an ordinary comb to first detangle hair.
4. Once hair has been detangled, switch to the special comb.
5. Start at the middle of the front of the scalp.
6. Comb the hair from the roots to the very end of the hair.
7. After each stroke, examine the teeth of the comb for living lice.
8. Rinse the comb if you find any lice.
9. Continue combing section by section until you've done the whole head of hair.
10. Make sure you cover every inch of the scalp, including the area just behind the ears and at the nape of the neck.
11. For wet combing, simply wash hair and apply conditioner before starting these steps. You can also do this with one tablespoonful of olive oil.

What if I find lice?

Check every other member of the family, including any adults who have close contact with the child.

1. Insecticides, but only if you find a live louse on your child's head. If you only find the hatched and empty eggshells (nits), these may be the sign of dead nits.

There are three types available in the UK:

- malathion ([Derbac-M liquid](#), [Prioderm lotion](#) and [Quellada-M liquid](#))
- permethrin ([rinse](#))
- phenothrin ([Full Marks liquid](#) or [lotion](#)).

For them to work, you must follow the manufacturer's instructions to the letter.

Do not use a hair dryer

Repeat after 7 days

[Dimeticone \(Hedrin\)](#) – this a fairly new product

2. Wet combing

Wet combing removes lice without using chemicals and is more effective.

1. Wetting the hair
2. Applying conditioner
3. Combing it with a fine-toothed comb for at least 30 minutes every third or fourth day over a two-week period.

Changes in Reception

Parents of children in Reception will know that a number of changes have been or are being put into place. These changes are mainly as a result of the need to raise standards of literacy in Reception, the one area which remains lower than other areas of learning. Other changes have taken place in order to encourage the children to participate in a wider range of learning opportunities. I am very pleased with the way in which the children are making progress and adapting so well to the changes, but I realise that changes can sometimes be confusing and concerning. Please do not hesitate to speak to me regarding changes in Reception or, of course, changes in the rest of the school. A message can always be left in the school office for me to ring you at home.

Shampoo and mousses are not as effective as lotions are better

Did you know? Insecticides can't prevent your child getting head lice, so don't use 'just in case'. They should only be used when a live louse is found.

School Trips – Charging Policy

We have three trips planned for this term and the beginning of next term plus a visiting French Theatre and Science presentation. We try our very best to fund these events from school sources as much as possible. The Governing Body at their meeting this week agreed that we should continue with our current policy as follows:-

- We calculate the cost of entrance fees for the group
- We work out the total cost of coaches
- We see what funding is available in school and possibly the PTFA
- We take the funding away from the total cost
- We divide the cost then between the number of children
- When a parent cannot pay the total cost of the trip they may ask us for help
- Some parents may pay in instalments
- School funds are those funds we have raised as staff through various means eg inspection work – this is not our school budget
- Parents NEVER subsidise the cost of other children.
- If we should ever have a situation when a number of families are unable to pay we would have to cancel the visit.

Science in a Suitcase – Friday 13th March

As part of Science Week Mrs McAllister has arranged for this very entertaining presentation of science activities for children in Years 1, 2 in the morning and Years 3 and 4 in the afternoon.

This is an expensive presentation – we would appreciate a contribution of £1.00 per child towards the costs.

Please could you send in a named envelope for your child including the £1 donation by half term.

L Fraser