

Working together to control infections within a Nursery School

As a school working together in partnership with our parents/carers is crucial in many ways:- helping support the development of our children, sharing relevant information as well as ensuring any infections are controlled as well as can be.

As a school we work with the children to develop their personal hygiene such as washing their hands and coughing into their elbow. All rooms and their resources are cleaned/fogged between sessions on a daily basis. Enhanced cleaning takes place when parents/carers inform us of any infections their child may have.

Unfortunately, at this age there are various ailments that the children can suffer from, which can be easily spread to others. Below are some examples of ailments children at this age can have, what symptoms to look out for, how to access treatment and how to prevent becoming infected again.

THREADWORMS -

- ❖ Further Information-[Threadworms - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)
- ❖ No exclusion period from Nursery School.
- ❖ Treatment is recommended for the child and household contacts.

Threadworms (pinworms) are tiny worms in your poo. You can spot worms in your poo, they look like pieces of white thread. You might also see them around your child's bottom. The worms usually come out at night while your child is sleeping.

Medicine is FREE from minor ailments at the Pharmacy.

Medicine kills the threadworms, but it does not kill the eggs. Eggs can live for up to 2 weeks outside the body. There are things you can do to stop becoming infected again:

- wash hands and scrub under fingernails - particularly before eating, after using the toilet or changing nappies
- encourage children to wash hands regularly
- bathe or shower every morning
- rinse toothbrushes before using them
- keep fingernails short
- wash sleepwear, sheets, towels and soft toys (at a hot temperature)
- disinfect kitchen and bathroom surfaces
- vacuum and dust with a damp cloth
- make sure children wear underwear at night - change it in the morning

HEADLICE AND NITS -

- ❖ Further information - [Head lice and nits - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)
- ❖ No exclusion period from Nursery School.

Headlice and nits are very common in young children and their families. They do not have anything to do with dirty hair and are picked up by head to head contact. The only way to be sure someone has head lice is by finding live lice. You can do this by combing their hair with a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb).

Treatment is FREE from minor ailments at the Pharmacy. Treat headlice as soon as you spot them. Treatment can be dry combing or using medicated lotions. Speak to your pharmacist for advice.

There's nothing you can do to prevent head lice. You can help stop them spreading by wet or dry combing regularly to catch them early.

CONJUNCTIVITIS -

- ❖ Further Information - [Conjunctivitis - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)
- ❖ No exclusion period from Nursery School.

Conjunctivitis is an eye condition caused by infection or allergies. It usually gets better in a couple of weeks without treatment however drops can be got from the G.P. via prescription. It usually affects both eyes and makes them:

- red
- burn or feel gritty
- produce pus that sticks to lashes
- itch
- water

Stop infectious conjunctivitis from spreading:

- wash your hands regularly with warm soapy water
- wash your pillow cases and face cloths in hot water and detergent
- cover your mouth and nose when sneezing and put used tissues in the bin

For further information on the guidance on infection control in schools can be found by accessing a poster on the attached link:- [Guidance on infection control in schools poster.pdf \(hscni.net\)](https://www.hscni.net) The poster outlines various ailments and if there is an exclusion from Nursery school.