

# Goodrich Church of England (VC) Primary School

Achieve ∞ Believe ∞ Care



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Dear Parent/Carer

## Head Lice

Within schools at any one time there will be a small number of children infected with head lice. Infection levels usually remain fairly constant but if you could please inspect your child/ children's hair at least once a week we would be grateful.

Head lice do not always cause an itchy scalp so many people will be unaware they are infected. Sufferers only develop an itchy scalp if they become sensitive to the louse saliva, and this can take up to two months.

### *What to look for:*

- a tiny six legged insect slightly smaller than a match head. Grey/ brown in colour and
- Eggs. The eggs are firmly attached to single hairs and as they are difficult to move should not be confused with dandruff which is easily removed. Live eggs are dark cream in colour and are found very close to the scalp. Empty eggshells (nits) are white and may be found further from the scalp.

### *The 5 Step Detection Process:*

1. Wash hair well and towel dry.
2. Comb the hair with an ordinary comb to remove tangles.
3. Using a detection comb (currently free from school), comb slowly from the scalp towards the end of the hair. Wiping the comb on a white tissue, kitchen roll will help you to see if any head lice have been removed.
4. Repeat this process covering the scalp in all directions.
5. Keep checking the comb.

If you do confirm head lice infestation, there is a number of treatments available including:

- Insecticides;
- Wet combing ('bug-busting');
- Non-insecticide products.

For more information please visit the NHS website. Please see overleaf for details on how to request a "FREE" Nitty Gritty NitFree Comb".

Please ensure you treat your child before they are returned to school.

To prevent the number of children getting head lice we would be grateful if children could keep long hair tied neatly in a ponytail or plait.

Thank you.



## How to get a Prescription

More and more family doctors all over Britain are discovering that it works much better than any other comb or chemical treatment, and is much more cost-effective to the Practice budget too.

No multiple or repeat prescriptions are necessary.

All you have to do is ask your GP, prescribing nurse or health visitor (or prescribing pharmacist) whether he or she will prescribe a Nitty Gritty NitFree Comb for you and your family. It has been approved for NHS prescription since 2004, and it conforms completely to the latest NHS guidelines.

Unlike any other comb, however, our award-winning comb removes 'live' eggs before they can hatch as well as head lice and unsightly nits.

Just one comb is all you need to check and protect a whole family. It works brilliantly with any ordinary hair conditioner, or even better with our natural Aromatherapy Solution and we will replace it free of charge if it ever breaks.

## What if your GP hasn't heard about the Nitty Gritty NitFree Comb yet, or offers to prescribe another product in its place?

If your GP hasn't heard of the Nitty Gritty Comb yet, or prefers to prescribe ineffective and costly chemical pesticides, firstly let him or her know that the comb is listed and fully approved for NHS prescription. You could offer to provide some constructive and unbiased feedback on the performance of the comb if he/she will prescribe it for you.

Point out that other products call for repeated treatments, as they only remove the live lice, not the unhatched eggs, whereas the Nitty Gritty NitFree Comb is guaranteed to remove not only even the smallest head lice but also unhatched 'live' eggs and unsightly nits (empty egg cases) quickly and easily.

So one way or another, we'll make sure you get the best comb in the entire world... because we are mums, and we know that your children, just like our children, deserve the best comb in the entire world.

## SUMMARY OF USEFUL INFORMATION

### Nitty Gritty NitFree Comb Prescription Details

- As a one-off prescription, one Nitty Gritty NitFree Comb will keep a whole family nit-free - and chemical-free. This means not just removing all head lice, but also the 'live' eggs that cause any ongoing infestation.
- It is listed in **Section IX A of the NHS Drug Tariff in the Appliance section** under sub-category: **Head Lice Device, Nitty Gritty NitFree steel nit comb with micro-grooved teeth.**
- It can also be found on the **Electronic Drug Tariff** on the [NHS website](#)  
Be sure to click **Enter** on the **The Electronic Drug Tariff** before typing in Nitfree or head lice in the search box.
- The Nitty Gritty NitFree Comb is also approved for prescription by [Prescribing Nurses](#).  
Pediculosis (head lice infestation) is one of the conditions listed for which **Nurse Prescribers** are allowed to prescribe, under the guidelines on **Nurse Prescribing in Part XVII**.
- Prescribing [Health Visitors](#) and Prescribing [Pharmacists](#) are also able to dispense the comb.
- The **PIP** ordering Code for the Nitty Gritty NitFree Comb is 294 6366. (useful for your pharmacist)