

Dear School Community

In second semester, we begin planning for the following school year. We are beginning to plan our staffing and class structures for 2027. If you know that your child/ren will not be attending Katanning PS next year, please let the office know as soon as possible. If you or someone you know has a child born between 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, please let our School Office staff know as soon as possible.

As part of our preparation, we also begin to remind our students to be “on the lookout” for leaders, in preparation for the election of Student Councillors and Faction Captains and Vice-Captains. We want leaders who consistently demonstrate our school’s behaviour expectations: Be a Learner, Be Respectful, Be Caring, Be Safe. Student leaders need to have regular attendance so that they are available to carry out their responsibilities. They need to wear our school uniform consistently. We remind our Year 5 students who are looking to be leaders in 2027, that they need to be doing the right thing, even when the teacher is not looking. That by doing all of these things now, by leading by example now; your schoolmates notice. In Term 4, our Year 5 students will prepare an election speech that they present to their schoolmates. All students from Year 3, who are at school on the voting day, get to vote. Staff members also get one vote. If there is a tied vote, Mrs van der Wal votes.

On Thursday 20 August we will commence our NAIDOC celebration with a special assembly in the undercover area, commencing at 9am. This will include a cultural dance performance by a visiting performer. Parents and cares are welcome to attend.

One of our PBS behaviour expectations is for students to walk their bike, scooter or skateboard on school grounds. This means dismounting before entering the gate and not riding until leaving through the gate on the way out. Please remind your child of this safety requirement and reinforce the message by doing this yourself.

Keira van der Wal  
School Principal

*please*  
**WALK YOUR WHEELS**  
on the school grounds



**We Strive to Excel**

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### Room 9 Team Pelican Legends!

We have had a great year so far learning many new skills and growing into independent learners who are kind and caring to others. Thank you to all our families who support their child to be amazing!

**CAUTION  
DRAGON TRAPS**  
DO NOT CROSS  
THE CAUTION  
TAPES!

#### How to Trap a Dragon

What you need:  
• A large net or a long rope  
• A large net or a long rope  
• A large net or a long rope



## Australian Mathematics Competition 2026

On Wednesday 5 August, 44 Year 3 – 6 KPS students sat the challenging, but fun Australian Mathematics Competition. First run in 1978, it is Australia's longest running, largest and most well-known maths competition for school students.

The AMC contains unique problems designed each year by leading educators and academics to challenge and extend your students' problem-solving skills.

All students who participated will receive a certificate. It is a credit to our students' resilience to nominate themselves for this competition and we are very proud of each and every one of them for giving it a go! Can you answer this Year 3/4 question?  
(answer bottom of page)

Cecily is 10 years older than Naida. Naida is 6 years younger than Joycelyn. If Cecily is now 42, how old is Joycelyn?

(A) 32                      (B) 34                      (C) 36                      (D) 38                      (E) 40



◀ This year Naida is 42 – 10 = 32 and Joycelyn is 32 + 6 = 38, hence (D).



Department of  
Education

**Learning changes lives**

# VacSwim

**Give your child the skills they need around water.**

Available in your local area.

Spots are limited, enrol now to secure your place.

**[education.wa.edu.au/vacswim](http://education.wa.edu.au/vacswim)**





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# VacSwim

## Regional enrolment checklist

VacSwim enrolments are now open! Use this checklist to help secure your child's spot quickly in a regional program.

### Get your WAIVS account ready

- ☐ Register for a WA Intern and VacSwim (WAIVS) account: it's essential for online enrolment.
- ☐ Already have one? Log in to your existing account.

### Be aware of enrolment limits

- ☐ One program per child only. This allows your child to enrol in:
  - One October program
  - One summer program (December/January)
- ☐ Join the waitlist for additional programs if desired.

### Choose your program and book early

Review program dates to find your preferred option.

#### October programs

(Close: Wednesday 19 August 2026)

- ☐ **October program:** Wednesday 30 September to Friday 9 October 2026 (8 days)
- ☐ **October short:** Monday 5 October to Friday 9 October 2026 (5 days)

#### Summer programs

(Close: Wednesday 14 October 2026)

- ☐ **Country early start:** Saturday 19 December to Wednesday 23 December 2026 (5 days)
- ☐ **January program 1:** Tuesday 5 January to Friday 15 January 2027 (9 days)
- ☐ **January short:** Monday 11 January to Friday 15 January 2027 (5 days)
- ☐ **January program 2:** Monday 18 January to Thursday 28 January 2027 (8 days)

### Prepare for costs and concessions

- ☐ Be aware of program and venue fees.
- ☐ Have an online payment method ready.
- ☐ Check your eligibility for concession rates on our website.

### Gather your child's details

- ☐ Know your child's full name, date of birth and medical information.
- ☐ Determine the current swimming stage.

### Find your local venue

- ☐ Use the map on our website to identify your preferred regional VacSwim venue.

### How to enrol

- ☐ The easiest way is to enrol online.
- ☐ Mail option is available. Complete the form and mail it to us by the closing date.

### Enrol now:

**[education.wa.edu/vacswim](https://education.wa.edu/vacswim)**

**Need help? Call 9402 6412 or email [vacswim@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:vacswim@education.wa.edu.au)**

**Spots are limited, enrol now to secure your place!**

# Head Lice Fact Sheet

## Household Cleaning

Head lice and eggs do not live away from the human scalp so it is not necessary to wash all the household linen or clothing, to vacuum, scrub or spray the house with insecticide, or to treat the dog or cat. Pillowslips and towels may be soiled with head lice debris including droppings and moulted lice skins, so they should be washed on the first day of treatment.

## Exclusion from School

Under the School Education Act 1999, a principal may exclude a child with head lice from school until treatment has commenced. The Department of Health recommends exclusion at the end of the school day. The child may return to school when all live head lice have been removed. A few remaining eggs are not a reason for continued exclusion. However, the parent must continue treatment until all eggs and hatchlings have been removed, usually over the following ten days.

## Prevention

**Useful activities and ideas to help prevent infestation:**

- **check your child's hair every week** for head lice and eggs ('nits') - use a metal fine tooth 'nit' comb and plenty of hair conditioner to make the task easier and more effective. To help children sit still for this, offer distracting activities, e.g. play a favourite video, provide games, encourage reading, offer a head massage.
- **tie long hair back** - braid and/or put it up if possible.
- **consider applying hair gel or mousse** - these do not prevent or repel lice but help to keep stray hair strands from contact with other heads.
- **avoid sharing** combs or brushes.
- **regularly immerse** brushes and combs in hot water for 10 minutes to kill any head lice or eggs trapped in them. An old toothbrush will also help remove any debris.
- **remind your child** to avoid head-to-head contact with other children, e.g. when working at the computer with others, or when playing, or hugging.

## Repellents

There are no known repellents which have been tested and shown to discourage head lice.

Products including head bands and caps impregnated with insecticide may have some insecticidal effect when head lice come in contact with them. However, these products need to be worn all the time and like all head lice insecticides, do not kill all head lice eggs. The insecticide may also cause skin irritation.

## 'Trouble-shooting' Checklist

If treatment is unsuccessful, check the following:

- Did the chosen treatment cover the 7-10 day hatching cycle of the eggs?
- Were the combings examined for adult head lice (indicating reinfestation) over the 10 day period?
- Were as many eggs as possible removed every day?
- Was hair conditioner applied to dry hair, not wet?
- Was sufficient hair conditioner applied to saturate the hair?
- Was insecticide (if used), applied exactly as instructed, particularly for the recommended application time?
- Was a metal fine-tooth 'nit' comb used?

## Further Information

Contact your Community (School) Nurse for further assistance – the school office will have a contact phone number.

## If all else fails

Contact the Communicable Disease Control Branch of the Department of Health, Western Australia on 9388 4999 or e-mail your enquiry to [headlice@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:headlice@health.wa.gov.au)

This fact sheet is available at [www.health.wa.gov.au/headlice](http://www.health.wa.gov.au/headlice)



# Head Lice Fact Sheet

## What are head lice?

Head lice are tiny insect parasites that live on the human head, feeding on the scalp several times a day. Head lice reproduce by laying their eggs (nits) on the hair shaft close to the scalp. They are not dangerous, don't carry diseases and are not a sign of poor hygiene.

| Head Louse                                                                          | Hatchling                                                                           | Egg(Nit)                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| 2-3mm                                                                               | 1-2mm                                                                               | 0.5-1mm                                                                             |

## How are head lice spread?

Head lice are spread by head-to-head contact with another person who has head lice, e.g. when doing group work at school, playing, or hugging. Head lice can run from one head to another in seconds. Head lice cannot fly, jump or swim, but they can sometimes 'trapeze' from one hair to another. Brushes and combs can transfer mature head lice but are unlikely to transfer viable eggs, as these are very hard to detach from the hair shafts. Head lice are not spread through bed linen, clothing or head gear, as they do not leave the scalp unless they are dead or dying. Eggs ('nits') do not fall off until weeks after they have hatched as they are glued tightly to the hair shaft.

## What are the signs of head lice?

**The scalp may itch** as the skin reacts to the saliva of the head lice. Itchiness can take weeks to develop. If you have had head lice more than once, the skin may become desensitised and there may be little or no itch. **Crawling head lice may be seen** in the hair, but they can move at 30cm per minute and can be difficult to spot. Head lice can quickly run and hide from searching hands. Adult lice are usually dark brown and about 2-3mm long. Hatchlings (young lice) are often a lighter brown and about 1-2mm long. **Eggs (nits) may be seen** attached to the hair shaft but they may be very tiny and hard to see, especially newly-laid eggs close to the scalp. They are grey-white and about the size of a grain of salt.

## How do I look for head lice?

**To check hair for head lice**, carefully comb plenty of hair conditioner through the dry hair, then comb again in sections with a metal fine-tooth 'nit' comb. The hair conditioner slows the head lice down so they can be trapped in the comb (see page 3). Wipe the combings on a white paper towel and examine them with a magnifying glass in strong light, e.g. sunlight, to look for head lice and eggs.

**To check more effectively for eggs**, use a magnifying glass in strong light, e.g. sunlight, to examine the hair close to the scalp, especially behind the ears and at the nape of the neck.

## What other things can be mistaken for head lice?

Other objects in the hair can be mistaken for head lice or eggs. These include sand, dandruff, flakes of hair spray, ants, aphids, or other insects. If you are unsure of the identity of your findings, use clear sticky tape to fix them to a piece of white paper. You can then ask the Community (School) Nurse or the Environmental Health Officer at the Council to check if they are head lice or not.

## What do I do if I find head lice?

- Check all household members to see if anyone else has head lice – use the hair conditioner method described on page 3. Treat only if lice and/or eggs are found.
- Choose one of the treatments from pages 3 and 4, and follow the instructions carefully.
- Inform the school or child care centre, and any other contacts including playgroup, neighbours and relatives, so they can advise other parents to check their child's hair.
- When treatment is completed, with all head lice and eggs removed, check the hair regularly, e.g. weekly, for any further head lice infestation. Early treatment can prevent spread to other close contacts.

## How do I treat head lice

There are several effective ways to treat head lice. These are listed over the page. Choose whichever method best suits you and your family. For successful removal of head lice, be sure to follow the directions for your preferred treatment exactly.

## 10 Day Hair Conditioner Treatment for Head Lice

Head lice can be more easily removed by applying plenty of hair conditioner to dry hair before combing to remove live lice and eggs (nits). Any type of hair conditioner may be used, including generic 'home' brands, together with a metal fine-tooth 'nit' comb.

### How does it work?

The hair conditioner works by **immobilising** the lice so that it is easier to **trap** them in the teeth of the comb. Without hair conditioner to slow them down, lice can be difficult to catch – they can run about 30 cm in 60 seconds. Hair conditioner also reduces friction, making combing easier, especially when using the metal fine-tooth 'nit' comb. Even if only one or two lice are missed, they can lay about 6 eggs per day, and the cycle of infestation will continue.

### Why the 10-day treatment period?

Generally, eggs ('nits') will hatch 7-8 days after being laid on the hair shaft.

However, some researchers have found that a few eggs may hatch as late as 9-10 days after being laid.

The 10-day period is therefore recommended as the most effective time to break the reproductive cycle of the head lice.

### What to do:

- Apply **plenty** of hair conditioner to the **dry** hair until saturated.
- Comb through with an ordinary comb or brush to remove tangles.
- Section and comb the hair thoroughly with a metal fine-tooth 'nit' comb in 4 directions – forwards, backwards, left, and right.
- Wipe the comb on a white paper towel to check that the dark adult lice or the paler hatchlings are being removed. Hatchlings are young lice which emerge from eggs. You may need to use a magnifying glass and a strong light to see the lice and eggs.
- Using white hair conditioner may make it easier to see the head lice.
- Rinse the hair conditioner out and dry the hair.
- Repeat this process **daily** for 10 days to cover the hatching period of the eggs.  
This removes the hatchlings which emerge from missed eggs.
- Check your findings for **adult** head lice each day after commencing the 10-day combing period.  
If any are found this will be a new infestation. You will need to start again from Day 1, as new eggs may have been laid.
- Check for lice **reinfestation** once a week for at least 4 weeks after completion of the 10-day treatment.  
Hair conditioner makes the inspection easier.
- Check all other household members for head lice infestation using the method described above.

### How to remove eggs:

Some eggs will be removed by combing, but others are harder to detach. You may need to use your fingernails to remove as many eggs as possible from the base of the hair shaft near the scalp.

Remember, only those eggs within 1cm of the scalp will hatch.

Those eggs which have grown further out with the hair shaft will already be hatched or dead.

# Term 3 – 2026

|    | Monday                         | Tuesday                       | Wednesday                                                 | Thursday                    | Friday                         | SAT      | SUN |
|----|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|-----|
| 1  | 20                             | 21                            | 22                                                        | 23<br>Pyjama Day            | 24<br>Kindy Blue<br>Pyjama Day | 25       | 26  |
| 2  | 27                             | 28                            | 29                                                        | 30                          | 31                             | 1<br>Aug | 2   |
| 3  | 3                              | 4 PEAC testing                | 5<br>P & C Meeting                                        | 6<br>Jeans for Genes<br>Day | 7                              | 8        | 9   |
| 4  | 10                             | 11                            | 12                                                        | 13                          | 14<br>ROOM 1<br>Assembly       | 15       | 16  |
| 5  | 17 SCIENCE<br>WEEK             | 18<br>Board Meeting<br>3:30pm | 19<br>Year 5&6<br>Science Week @<br>KSHS                  | 20                          | 21                             | 22       | 23  |
| 6  | 24<br>Staff<br>Development Day | 25<br>BOOK WEEK               | 26<br>Learning Journey<br>& Book Fair                     | 27                          | 28<br>ROOM 9<br>Assembly       | 29       | 30  |
| 7  | 31                             | 1 Sep                         | 2<br>Photo Hendriks<br>School Photos<br><br>P & C Meeting | 3                           | 4                              | 5        | 6   |
| 8  | 7                              | 8                             | 9<br>Faction Jumps<br>and Throws                          | 10                          | 11<br>Athletics<br>Carnival    | 12       | 13  |
| 9  | 14                             | 15                            | 16                                                        | 17                          | 18<br>ROOM 8<br>Assembly       | 19       | 20  |
| 10 | 21                             | 22                            | 23<br>P & C Meeting                                       | 24                          | 25                             | 26       | 27  |
|    | 28 King's<br>Birthday          | 29                            | 30                                                        | 1 Oct                       | 2                              | 3        | 4   |
|    | 5                              | 6                             | 7                                                         | 8                           | 9                              | 10       | 11  |