



Dear Parents

THREADWORM ALERT

What are threadworms?

Threadworms, sometimes known as pinworms, are small, white thread-like worms a few millimetres long, that live in the human gut.

Who gets threadworm?

Threadworms are more common in school or pre-school children than in adults, but can sometimes affect whole families.

Many people do not show any symptoms - but symptoms can include:

- Itching around the anus (and in girls the vagina too), which becomes much worse at night
- Disturbed sleep and irritability
- Secondary skin infection due to bacteria entering scratches
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss

When going to the toilet it looks as if the infected person is passing strings of white cotton thread.

How do you avoid getting threadworm?

Although there is no way to completely prevent threadworm infection high standards of personal hygiene can reduce the risk.

School and home need to work together to teach and monitor our children in washing their hands with soap and water regularly after going to the toilet and before eating. It will also be helpful if fingernails are kept short.

What is the treatment for threadworm?

There are a variety of treatments available which you can get from your local pharmacy without a prescription. You should get advice from your GP if you are pregnant, breastfeeding or for infants under three months.

Should I stay away from school/work?

It is not necessary to stay away from work or school if you have threadworm. School and home should encourage good personal hygiene.

The above advice has been supplied by our school nurse Mrs Karen Skilbeck who is always available to meet with our parents to offer support and guidance on any health concerns you may have for your child.

More detailed information can be obtained from the Health Protection Agency on their website:

www.hpa.org.uk

or a paper copy can be provided by school.

Thank you

Mrs Taylor

Head Teacher