



Watton Westfield Infant and Nursery School, West Road, Watton, Norfolk, IP25 6AU

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Headteacher: Mrs H Kemp

Friday 4th January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Threadworms

We have become aware of cases of threadworms in your child's class. Please see the attached information from the NHS regarding symptoms and treatment.

There is no need to keep a child off school if they have threadworms, but we do request you obtain and begin the recommended treatment from a pharmacy as soon as symptoms are seen.

Kind regards,

Mrs H Kemp

Head of School



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Threadworms

Threadworms (pinworms) are tiny worms in your poo. They're common in children and spread easily. You can treat them without seeing your GP.

Check if it's threadworms

You can spot worms in your poo. They look like pieces of white thread.

See what threadworms look like in poo

You might also see them around your child's bottom (anus). The worms usually come out at night while your child is sleeping.

Other symptoms can include:

- extreme itching around the anus or vagina, particularly at night
- irritability and waking up during the night

Less common signs of worms include:

- weight loss
- wetting the bed
- irritated skin around the anus

A pharmacist can help with threadworms

You can buy medicine for threadworms from pharmacies. This is usually a chewable tablet or liquid you swallow.

Treat everyone in your household, even if they don't have symptoms.

Tell the pharmacist if you need to treat a child under 2, or if you're pregnant or breastfeeding. Treatment might not be suitable and you may need to speak to a GP.

Find a pharmacy (<https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/pharmacy/locationsearch/10>)

Things you should do at home

Medicine kills the threadworms, but it doesn't 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.

Do

- ✓ 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 normal 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

Don't

- X do not shake clothing or bedding, to prevent eggs landing on other surfaces
- X do not share towels or flannels
- X do not bite nails or suck thumbs and fingers

Important

You don't need to stay off school, nursery or work with threadworms.

How threadworms spread

Threadworms spread when their eggs are swallowed. They lay eggs around your anus, which make it itchy. The eggs get stuck on your fingers when you scratch. They can then pass on to anything you touch, including:

- clothes
- toys
- toothbrushes
- kitchen or bathroom surfaces
- bedding
- food
- pets

Eggs can then pass to other people when they touch these surfaces and touch their mouth. They take around 2 weeks to hatch.

Children can get worms again after they've been treated for them if they get the eggs in their mouth. This is why it's important to encourage children to wash their hands regularly.