

**OAKDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**Ashton Avenue, Rainhill, Merseyside. L35 0QQ**

Headteacher Mrs. H Lee B.Ed (Hons)

14<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Parents,

We have been alerted to a case of threadworm within School. In any organisation with a lot of children present there are outbreaks of this type every now and then. Although this parasite can be contagious, with the correct cleaning procedures, there is little likelihood of this transferring to other children in school.

We will be talking to the children about the importance of washing hands and general hygiene and we hope that this will be continued at home. All our toilets are cleaned regularly and our cleaning procedures will be increased for the present time. Please see the information on the reverse of this sheet about what to look for and how to treat threadworms.

If you have any concerns about your child's health please contact our School Nurse on 01744 624925.

I am sorry to have to inform you of this, but I am sure you will agree that it is better to know about these incidences in case your child shows any symptoms.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Yours truly,

H Lee  
Headteacher

PTO



## THE FACTS ON THREADWORM

### Question and Answer Sheet

- Q **How do I know if my children have threadworms?**  
A The most common symptom is an itchy bottom, especially at night. However, it is important to note that around 30% of infected children do not show any signs of an itchy bottom<sup>1</sup>, in which case it is a question of spotting the tiny white thread-like worms in the stools. Other signs include disturbed sleep, irritability, loss or increase of appetite. In extreme cases they can experience bedwetting, vaginal irritation or cystitis.
- Q **If my child has threadworms, is poor personal hygiene the cause?**  
A Hygiene is important. Threadworms are easily spread by contact with others, so simply forgetting to wash hands before eating or after playing can lead to threadworm eggs being swallowed.
- Q **How are threadworms easily spread?**  
A When children scratch their bottoms, eggs laid by the threadworms attach to their hands or under their nails. These eggs are then quickly spread between friends and family by hand holding or touching mouths. The eggs can then be swallowed.
- Q **Is the child with threadworms the only one who needs treatment?**  
A All members of the family should be treated at the same time to prevent reinfestation. The child's teacher and the parents of friends should be notified, and anyone he or she has been in contact with during the three weeks prior to discovering the infestation should be alerted.
- Q **What treatments should I use?**  
A The best-selling threadworm treatment available from pharmacists is OVEX<sup>2</sup> - a single, orange-flavoured tablet that can kill threadworms in one dose. The tablet can be chewed or swallowed whole. The tablet should be crushed before being given to a young child. For children under 2 years or sufferers who are pregnant or breastfeeding, a doctor should be consulted.
- Q **Is there anything else I should do?**  
A Yes. Ensure these general hygiene measures are followed for up to six weeks after treatment to prevent reinfestation:
- ✓ Keep nails short and clean
  - ✓ Scrub fingers and nails with a nailbrush after each visit to the toilet and before each meal
  - ✓ Do not let your children bite or suck their nails
  - ✓ Ensure pyjamas or underwear are worn in bed
  - ✓ Bath every morning, paying particular attention to the anal area
  - ✓ Don't share towels
  - ✓ Clean the toilet seat, toilet handle or chain, door handle and taps regularly.
  - ✓ Wash and iron clothes and bed linen regularly
  - ✓ Vacuum and dust bedrooms thoroughly.
- Q **Does my child need to be kept off school?**  
A No. Children need to be treated, but do not need to be kept off school. One reason for this is that if a child does have threadworms, he or she will have had them at school for several weeks before diagnosis. However, it is important to treat the family and inform the school

Ovex<sup>TM</sup> contains mebendazole. Always read the leaflet. Ask your pharmacist for advice.

**For further information visit [www.worminfo.co.uk](http://www.worminfo.co.uk).**

<sup>1</sup> Counter Intelligence, The training guide for pharmacy assistants, NPA Pharmacy Interact Course, 2004

<sup>2</sup> IRI MAT Data, Sept 04