**HEAD LICE POLICY**

We are aware that head lice can be a persistent problem in many nursery settings. This policy outlines how we address the problem.

Children and staff with long hair are encouraged to tie their hair back.

Children will not be excluded from attending nursery if they have head lice once a head lice treatment has been applied.

Any child attending the nursery with head lice must wear their hair up at all times.

Parents/Carers will be encouraged to inform staff if their child has head lice

Staff will display a notice informing Parents/Carers when cases of head lice have

been reported.

Staff will provide Parents/Carers with information about how to treat and prevent

infections of head lice as best they can.

Staff are not permitted to check children’s hair for lice as it is classed as a child

protection issue. It is the responsibility of the Parent/Carer to check their child’s

hair on a regular basis for head lice.

**Prevention and treatment of head lice**

Head lice can be treated by the application of head lice shampoo, lotion or ordinary hair conditioner followed by thorough combing with a nit comb. Head lice can be treated and prevented by following a regular routine of washing, conditioning and nit combing the hair every four days for a period of four weeks, and thereafter conditioning and nit combing after every shampoo.

Head lice can be deterred by adding a few drops of tea tree oil to the final rinse

when washing hair, or by using Nitty Gritty head lice repellent spray www.nittygritty.co.uk. They also sell a special Nit Free Comb and aromatherapy head lice solution. Bug Buster kits are available from some pharmacies.