



Scoil Náisiúnta Bhantiarna Lourdes

“Mol an óige ‘is tiocfaidh sí”

Hospital Hill,
Bunclody,
Enniscorthy,
Co. Wexford

Phone: (053) 93 77380
E-mail: bunclodyns@gmail.com
Website: www.bunclodyns.com
Roll Number: 03633H

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Dear Parents,

There has been a case of **Threadworm** in your child's classroom. We are bringing this to your attention because worms can spread rapidly among children unless all affected children are promptly treated. We include some information on the condition for your consideration.

Sincerely,

(James Roberts, Principal)

What are Threadworms?

Enterobius vermicularis, the threadworm, is a common parasite which at some time will cause infection in almost every child.

How could my child get worms?

Anyone can become infected with threadworms. Furthermore people can become infected on several different occasions. The worms live in the intestine. The adult female worm leaves the intestine at night to lay her eggs on the skin surrounding the anus. Children irritated by the presence of the worms scratch their bottoms, picking up the eggs onto their hands in the process. These eggs are then carried to the mouth, swallowed, and once in the intestine they can hatch and mature into the adult worm. In a similar fashion the child may, by putting their fingers into another mouth or by touching food, pass the eggs to their classmates and to other family members.

Eggs can also be transferred indirectly as they can get onto bedding and clothes and survive for up to two weeks.

What should I do if my child has worms?

A variety of agents are available to treat worms including some which are available without prescription at the chemist. If infection is diagnosed in one member of the family, all members should be treated because of its extremely infectious nature. It is recommended that the treatment is repeated after two weeks to ensure eradication of infection. After treatment all bedding and underwear should be washed in the hot cycle in the washing machine to destroy any eggs present.

Thank you for giving this your attention. Your family doctor or chemist will be able to answer any further questions that you might have concerning worms and the preparations available to treat them.

(Information taken from Infection in School - A MANUAL FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL, compiled for the Health Promotion Unit by Karina M. Butler, MB, DCH, MRCPI. By Infectious Disease Group, Department of Public Health, South Eastern Health Board.)