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### **Important Medical Information for Parents - Threadworms**

We have been notified of another case of **Threadworms** within the school. For your information here is the current information from NHS Direct:

Threadworms, also known as pinworms, are tiny parasitic worms that hatch eggs in and infect the large intestine of humans. Threadworms are the most common type of worm infection in the UK, and they are particularly common in young children under the age of 10.

Threadworms are white and look like small pieces of thread. They live in the bowel and sometimes they can be seen in the bowel motion where they look like threads of white cotton.

Threadworms can be a nuisance but they are not harmful.

If you think you or your child may have threadworms, you can usually treat the infection yourself with medication available at pharmacies without prescription. You only usually need to see your GP if you think you have threadworms and you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or if you think your child has threadworms and they are under two years old. This is because the treatment recommended in these circumstances is usually different to what is recommended for most people.

If you or your child has threadworms, everyone in your household will need to be treated because the risk of the infection spreading is high. This includes people without any symptoms of a threadworm infection. It is also important to follow strict hygiene measures to avoid spreading the threadworm eggs, this involves things such as regularly vacuuming your house and thoroughly washing your bathroom and kitchen.

### **Should work or school be avoided?**

A threadworm infection should be treated as soon as it's identified, but it is not necessary to stay off work or school. However, it's important to inform your child's school or nursery so they can follow good hygiene practices to limit the spread of infection – such as cleaning toys and equipment, and encouraging children to wash their hands regularly.

For more information: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)