



Arnold Mill Primary School

☎ 0115 9667930

Dear Parents

Threadworm has been reported in school and I would urge you to check your child(ren) for symptoms. I hope the attached guidance, provided by NHS Choices, is helpful but I would recommend you to seek medical assistance if an infestation is suspected.

Mrs. James



**Symptoms of threadworms** - Threadworms often go unnoticed by people who have them. However, they can cause intense itching around the anus (and the vagina in girls), particularly at night when the female worms are laying eggs. This can disturb sleep. In some cases, you may spot threadworms on your bed clothes or sheets at night, or you may notice them in your stools. The worms look like threads of white cotton and are about one centimetre long.

**Seeking medical help** - Speak to your pharmacist about treatment if you suspect you or your child may have threadworms. See your GP if (a) you think you have threadworms and you're pregnant or breastfeeding (b) your child has threadworms and they're under two years old

**Treating threadworms** - To treat threadworms successfully, all household members must be treated, even if they don't have any symptoms. This is because the risk of the infection spreading is very high. The aim of treatment is to get rid of the threadworms and prevent reinfection. This will usually involve a combination of medication to kill the worms and strict hygiene measures to stop the spread of the eggs. The main medication used to treat threadworms is available from your local pharmacy without a prescription.

**Medication** - Mebendazole is the main medication used to treat threadworm infections. It can be bought over the counter from your local pharmacy or prescribed by your GP. It's available as a chewable tablet or a liquid.