

School notice to parents

## Threadworms

### Cause and infection

- The cause is a white nematode, *Entero Vermicularis*, between 8 mm and 13 mm long and less than 1 mm wide. It lives in the large intestine. It is a parasite that lives only in humans and is transmitted directly from one person to another.
- The infection comes from ingesting the eggs. Female threadworms crawl from the intestines to the area of the anus to lay eggs, especially at night.
- The eggs can survive for several weeks in bedding, for example.
- The period between infection and manifestation is 1 to 2 months.
- Threadworms are most common in children between 3 and 10 years of age, but infections in older children and grown-ups are not uncommon.

### Symptoms

- Itching around the anus, especially at night, which can cause bedwetting and waking up at night.
- Scratching can lead to bacterial infections of the perianal skin.
- Loss of appetite and irritation can occur.

### Treatment

- One dose of over-the-counter Pyrvin tablets available in pharmacies.
- Nails should be kept short and in good condition.
- Home surfaces need to be cleaned.
- Washing or other treatment of bedding, for example freezing them to destroy worm eggs. Bed sheets are changed.
- The course of medication needs to be repeated in 2 weeks from the first treatment.
- Family members with no symptoms should also be treated.