

Whiteshill Primary School

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Dear Parents

RE: Nut Allergy in school

As you may already know, we have a child at Whiteshill Primary who suffers from a life threatening peanut and nut allergy. This child can suffer from an allergic reaction and anaphylactic shock not just by eating peanuts or nuts but also through cross contamination of food utensils or through breathing nut dust in the air. If they do suffer from an allergic reaction in school, it could be potentially fatal. Therefore, we need to ensure that the school is a **nut-free environment** at all times to ensure their safety and well-being.

As part of being a nut-free school, the pupils will learn in assembly about allergies and in particular the dangers nuts can pose to some people, in order to help them understand the importance of our policy and of not sharing food in school. Since this condition can be **life threatening**, we ask all members of the school community for their help in minimising the risk by:

- Not sending in to school with the children any peanuts, nuts or products which have peanut or any type of nut listed in their ingredients in their packed lunches or as a break time snack.
- Checking the label of food products before sending your child to school with them – please make sure that peanuts or any type of nut are **not** labelled in the ingredients of any product you send in to school.

We also ask you to:

- Not supply the school with cakes or food items containing any type of peanut or nut for birthday celebrations or cake sales etc. in school
- Not bring your own peanut, nut or nut based products in to the school building when visiting.

At present, children are also asked not to bring hummus in to school as there is a possibility of a reaction occurring through airborne contact with hummus as well. Whilst this remains a possibility, please ensure that your child does not bring hummus in to school in line with the above guidelines.

Many foods are labelled outside of the ingredients box as 'may contain nuts' or 'not suitable for people with peanut or nut allergy'. Such items are allowed in school as long as they do not have peanuts or any type of nuts listed in their ingredients. It would be unreasonable to expect these to be kept out of school as they are numerous and unlikely to cause harm in this case unless ingested.

Where a member of staff notices a pupil eating a nut product, it will be removed from the pupil and the member of staff will explain why and reassure the child. The food item will then be destroyed and removed from the school premises. A message will be sent to the parent to explain what has happened so you are fully informed and to remind you of our policy to ensure there is not a repeat that could be potentially life threatening. The children in school are all very supportive and understanding of this policy and we find that they completely understand why we have to take food from them as and when we do.

Due to the severity of this allergy, it is important that all parents carry out the suggested measures and reduce the risk of allergic reaction. I'm sure you can understand that the life of a young child in our care who is part of our school community is of utmost importance and you would no doubt expect the same for your child if they developed such a severe allergy.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this matter.

Your faithfully

Heather Francis
Headteacher