

18<sup>th</sup> January

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Nut Allergy in School**

During the Christmas holidays one of our pupils was diagnosed with having a serious nut allergy after having a reaction that caused her to be admitted to hospital. As you can imagine, such an episode was very worrying for the family involved. Since the attack, the pupil's allergy to a range of nuts has been confirmed. Although we are now in the possession of emergency medication, it would seem clear that we should now endeavour to minimise the likelihood of another life-threatening reaction by reducing the availability of nut products in school. With this in mind, the governors, with staff support, have amended the School's Food Policy, as follows, which we would like all parents and carers to consider:

- Parents/carers are kindly requested not to send food to the School that contains nuts. This includes all types of nuts, peanut butter, Nutella, cereal/chocolate bars and any other food containing nuts.
- Staff will be alert to any obvious signs of nuts being brought in, but they will not inspect all food brought into the School.
- Children that do bring in food that does contain nuts or nut products will be asked to eat that food away from any child with a nut allergy and to wash their hands before going to play.
- Children will be reminded on a regular basis not to share food.
- Children will be encouraged to wash hands before and after eating.
- Most staff are trained in understanding and dealing with Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions) and will use this training as the need arises.
- The School dinner providers will endeavour that all cooked food is nut-free, though external caterers cannot guarantee nut-free menus and preparation environments.
- Parents/carers of nut allergy sufferers have a responsibility to keep the School informed of contact details, and to support the School's endeavours by anticipating any possible situations through liaising with the School, to alleviate the risks.

I can understand that restricting foods may be considered an inconvenience, but I hope the explanation clarifies why this change to the Food Policy has been made.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Chris Burman