

Supporting Children with Severe Allergies at Pinner Wood

Tuesday 6th November 2018

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Allergies

There has been a lot in the media recently about allergies and some of our parents who have children with allergies have been in touch to confirm our policies.

The Background

We understand that food allergies are becoming increasingly common among children, and there are many pupils in our school who have severe allergy to nuts/ other allergens - any exposure to these items, even a tiny amount, could be potentially very serious and life threatening for these children.

Our Aim in School

We want to work together to ensure that the environment at Pinner Wood is safe for these pupils. However, we also want to ensure that we can still enjoy food and treats as part of a normal school day. For example, we understand how important a birthday is when you are young, and don't want to ban sweets/ treats being brought in to share. (*This is always done on balance and in conjunction with our work on Healthy Living.*)

What you need to do:

- We all need to work together to ensure that we can keep pupils at Pinner Wood as safe as possible, we can do this this by following these simple suggestions:
 - Please avoid sending any foods that contain nuts, such as peanut butter or nutella sandwiches, muesli or health bars with nuts, to school with your child.
 - Please always contact the Classroom Teacher *before* sending any food for sharing with the class for special celebrations like birthdays.
- Food that is sent in to share on special occasions must be shop brought (not home cooked), individually wrapped and must say that it does not contain nuts. We cannot give out boxes of chocolates where one or more chocolates contains nuts, or packets or biscuits that are not individually wrapped. *Please check before as it is so hard when children are told that they cannot hand them out.*

- Class teachers handing out treats will always suggest that children show their grown up before they start to eat. However, please be aware this is impossible to enforce once children have left our care. If you have a child with an allergy, please enforce this rule too.
- Occasionally, we will hold cake sales, charity events etc. where food is home cooked. In these events we cannot guarantee the ingredients that is used and parents will have the responsibility of deciding whether their children can partake.
- If your child has a severe allergy the class teacher can always store a box of 'approved' treats handed in by the parent, that they can have when other snacks are given out.

Other things that you can do:

- Please remind your child never to share his/her food and drinks with other students.
 - Please wash your child's face and hands thoroughly before they leave home, especially if your child has eaten nuts/allergens prior to coming to school.
 - Please remind your child often to wash their hands before and after eating
- Please ensure that the school has up to date information on your child's allergy. Mrs Ellet (Welfare officer) is the point of contact for any discussions.

We greatly appreciate your support for children with food allergies. Together we can make a difference.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sarah Marriott and Mrs Ellett