

27th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child to our Reception class on September 1st. It will be good to get back to a new 'normal' and have children back in school, playing and learning.

The teaching staff have been working very hard to put many measures in place to ensure the safety of your child in school and we are following Government guidance rigorously.

We are having to make one further change. We have a child starting with us who has not previously attended our school. They have a severe nut allergy and can become extremely ill if exposed to any kind of nut. This includes airborne exposure to nuts or nut products.

Unfortunately, nuts can be present in many products that are not obviously nut flavoured and therefore we have made the decision that to ensure the safety of the child, we will be unable to allow food from home to come into the Reception classes. Very few of our families choose to send a packed lunch with our Reception children as all children in this class are entitled to a free school meal every day. As we are able to be totally nut free in our school kitchen, we know that all food provided is safe for all the children in the area.

Your child will be able to choose from a range of meal choices each day and teachers will help them to choose food that they like. As we are unable to have all our children in the dining hall currently, Reception children will be eating in their classroom and food will be delivered to them daily. This will provide an extremely safe environment for the pupil with the allergy. Your child will also be provided with a range of fruit and snacks throughout the day.

We know that some parents like to bring birthday treats into school to celebrate their child's birthday. Should you still wish to do this it would need to be totally nut free products that have a list of ingredients that staff can check. This means we will not be able to accept cakes or homemade food items.

We do hope that you will understand and support us, and the family of the child, in order to ensure that all are children are safe in school. We will work carefully with all our children to ensure they can choose from a range of healthy dinner options. There is an added advantage in that this arrangement will encourage all our students to try out foods that they may not have the opportunity to try at home.

We appreciate your support and I'm sure that you understand the very serious consequences that this child could face should we not put this arrangement in place.

Yours sincerely
Helen Haunch
Principal

