

September 19th 2019

Food Allergies at Ballifield Primary School

Dear Parents & Carers,

We would like to make you aware that, like most schools in the UK, we have a number of children at Ballifield Primary School with serious food allergies. As a consequence of being exposed to certain ingredients these children could suffer severe reactions even if exposed to the tiniest amounts of allergens.

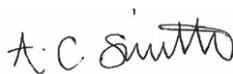
There are certain procedures that need to be put into place to keep these children safe and able to learn in an environment that understands how every child is unique. Therefore, because our school has many young children who are still exploring their environment with their hands and mouths and frequently touch their face, we need to introduce school rules that can decrease their chance of allergic reactions.

As a result, starting with immediate effect, children are only permitted to bring sealed 'treats' for birthday celebrations. We can no longer allow birthday cakes, buns, cupcakes etc. to be brought into classrooms or handed out at the start/end of the school day. We have been told that some schools now have parents buying a book for the class that can be shared on the child's birthday and is then placed in the class library to treasure and share. With our school priority focus being reading this year, we feel that this would be a lovely idea. **However, there is absolutely no expectation that children/parents bring anything to school when it is their birthday.** It is our goal to ensure that every child in our school can learn in a safe and supportive environment.

Lunchtimes have protocols that are in place to minimise the risks to ensure that the lunch hall is a safe place with food allergen risks assessed. With guidance and advice, from parents and professionals, procedures have been implemented to reduce the risk of cross-contamination.

Thank you for your commitment to our children and supporting staff ensure all children are safe. If you would like any further clarification please speak to a member of staff.

Kind regards,



Amanda Smith (Headteacher)