



St Mary's Church of England School

Infants:

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Middle:

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Juniors:

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NUTS AND ALLERGIES

All parents will be aware of intolerance in some children to nuts and products which contain even small traces of nuts. Although most children are not susceptible to nut allergies and others may exhibit relatively minor symptoms if challenged by nutty products, some allergic children are liable to react immediately with acute, and even life-threatening, problems from very limited contact with nuts or products containing nut ingredients.

For several years it has been our policy at St Mary's (and, we believe, at most primary schools) to insist that any food brought into school or provided on the premises is nut-free. This particularly means that we aim to stop children bringing packed lunches or snacks containing nuts or nut products into school. St Mary's also opens its doors to the public several times each year, and the Christmas and Summer Fairs are particularly well-attended events. In addition, each class has its own cake sale during the school year and these occasions provide further hazards for children with allergies.

We would therefore like to remind you that:

- Any food your child brings into school must be nut-free
- All volunteers who prepare or purchase cakes or other foodstuffs for school events must use their best endeavours to keep their products nut-free
- All parents and carers who attend this sort of function, or whose children attend, must understand that it is simply not possible for the school to provide any assurance that any products available on the school premises are, in fact, nut-free despite our best efforts to ensure that they are.

The staff and governing body hold the very strong view that everyone in the school community should be ever-vigilant to the dangers of nuts and nut products to some children. Parents and carers are urged always to err on the side of caution when attending school functions and deciding what they or their children should and should not buy. St Mary's cannot accept responsibility for any adverse reaction to anyone, however severe, from contact with a food product obtained at school.

We will, where possible, try to place appropriate notices alerting people to the possibility of nut ingredients at all stalls providing foodstuffs at fairs and cake sales.

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