Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Important update about allergy safety (Benedict's Law) — from September 2026

Keeping every pupil safe is our top priority. New statutory requirements on allergy safety (often called Benedict's Law), have adjusted how schools prevent, recognise and respond to serious allergic reactions and support pupils with allergies to take part fully and safely in school life.

What we are doing

We are reviewing and updating our whole-school allergy safety arrangements. Actions already underway or planned include:

- a clear, school-wide allergy safety policy and risk register entry;
- refresher training for staff on allergy awareness and recognition of anaphylaxis;
- up-to-date Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) where needed;
- arrangements for emergency adrenaline auto-injectors and how these are stored and checked;
- working with our caterers to make allergen information available and to reduce cross-contamination risks;
- reviewing how activities, trips and lessons use food and planning suitable alternatives;
- recording and reviewing any allergy incidents or near-misses so we can learn and improve.

How you can help

Please support us with these simple steps so we keep risk low and inclusion high:

- **Do not send any food into school to share with other children for birthdays or celebrations (no cakes, sweets, biscuits, chocolates, crisps, etc.). This reduces accidental exposure and creates a consistent approach for everyone.**
- Do not allow your child to share their food or drink with other pupils.
- If your child brings a packed lunch, do not include nuts or products containing nuts (including peanut butter, Nutella and some cereal bars, pesto, etc.). Please check ingredient labels — some products contain nut oil. **We are a nut-free school.**
- Label bottles, lunchboxes and any medication clearly with your child's name.
- Tell us as soon as possible about any new allergies, changes to an existing allergy, or changes to prescribed medication (including adrenaline auto-injectors). If your child has an IHP, let us know if it needs updating.
- If you are providing food for a classroom activity (with staff agreement), please contact the class teacher in advance so we can check ingredients and make safe arrangements.

Celebrating birthdays

We want pupils to enjoy their birthday at school. There is no expectation that parents buy gifts or food for the class. Teachers will continue to mark birthdays in ways that **do not involve sharing food** — for example, with a special song, a birthday sticker, or a classroom activity chosen by the teacher.

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Inclusion and wellbeing

We recognise that children with allergies (and their families) can feel anxious. Our aim is to reduce avoidable risks while ensuring children are not singled out or excluded. We will balance safety and inclusion in all our arrangements and take steps to prevent and respond to allergy-related bullying.

If you have questions or need support

If your child has an allergy or medical condition, or you are unsure whether an item is suitable, please contact the school office or your child's class teacher. We will work with you and, where appropriate, with the caterers and health professionals to put suitable arrangements in place.

Thank you for working with us to keep Park Hill Infant School a safe, welcoming and inclusive place for every pupil.

Yours sincerely,

The Headship Team