



4th September 2014

Dear Parents

Nut Allergies

There are already several pupils at RGS Springfield who suffer from nut allergies of varying degrees of severity. For people who are most sensitive, exposure to nuts can lead to anaphylactic shock which can occasionally even be fatal. Owing to the increasing number of pupils who have nut allergies, including the most dangerous airborne variety, the RGS family of schools has a nut free policy.

Our catering contractors, Chartwells, can guarantee traceability relating to all food prepared in our school kitchen, but this is not always the case when food is brought into school from home.

I therefore take this opportunity of asking parents to be vigilant when providing little teas, snacks or packed lunches during Holiday Club so that ALL nut products are avoided. Most obviously, please do not put any nuts in lunchboxes or sandwiches (e.g. peanut butter, Nutella). We would also appreciate your forethought in scrutinising the contents of other snack products such as cereal and energy bars.

In line with this approach, whilst we always welcome and enjoy celebrating the birthdays of our pupils and the community benefits greatly from charitable cake sales, we ask that cakes brought to school either be purchased from a recognised supermarket such as Sainsburys, Waitrose or Tesco, or if home-made, they be enclosed wherever possible, in plastic bags and labelled clearly if they contain nuts or nut products. This ensures that there is traceability relating to how the product was produced, packaged and delivered which supports our approach to managing special diets.

Further information and advice about food allergies is available from the NHS (<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/food-allergy/Pages/Intro1.aspx>). If you would like to discuss any matters relating to school food please contact our Chartwells Catering Manager, Mrs Brigette Keen (bjk@rgsw.org.uk). If your child has a food allergy and you have yet to inform us of the fact, please contact Mrs Nutter or Mrs Paget at the Springfield School Office (springfield@rgsw.org.uk) so we can ensure the food provided for them by the Springfield kitchen meets their needs.

May I also take this opportunity to remind parents that if their child has any allergy, not just a food allergy, it is essential that the school is informed and that the child has appropriate medication available at all times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

Laura Brown
Headmistress