



St James' Catholic School

Whakaruru Hau A Sheltering Place

— Te Kura Katorika o Hāto Heemi —

20 May 2016

NUT FREE ZONE SEVERE/LIFE THREATENING FOOD ALLERGY

Our Vision states: We are a welcoming community who responds practically, with compassion, understanding and sensitivity to the needs of others. Everyone has a place here. In our safe and inclusive environment we embrace and value diversity. We recognise and respect the uniqueness of every individual within the school community as made in the image and likeness of God.

We have children with severe and life threatening allergies to nuts attending St James' Catholic School. In addition, these learners do not understand the seriousness of their condition. In fact, they are not aware of their allergy. If these children come into contact with nuts or nut products, even touch some nut residue left on surfaces, they can have a life threatening allergic reaction. The school needs to take every practical precaution to avoid a severe reaction and keep these children safe.

At school the staff will be:

- Continuing to encourage all children to wash their hands after they have eaten
- Wiping down tables and surfaces after lunch
- Discouraging children from 'sharing' or swapping food
- Making the children aware of how we can help each other and keep each other safe.

We ask that children **do not** bring peanuts, peanut butter, muesli bars, cashew nuts and Nutella sandwiches, and other foods containing nuts to school.

We request that if your child has consumed these food items before coming to school, that they wash their hands thoroughly before they leave home. We realise that many food products state on their packaging "may contain traces of peanuts or nuts". Provided that nuts are not the actual ingredient, then there is no problem with your child bringing these food items to school. A copy of Alternative Food Ideas is attached.

Of particular concern are wet days, when children eat inside and surfaces can be contaminated. It is very difficult for children to eat a peanut butter sandwich without making a mess! We continue to regularly monitor these measures.

We appreciate your understanding in this matter. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me directly or Public Health Services Health on Main 575 Main Street 06 350 4560 or on Free Phone 0800 153 042.

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Principal



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