



OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE PRIMARY

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6th February 2018

Dear Parents,

RE: NUT ALLERGY – ANAPHYLAXIS

It is important each year to outline the difficulties associated with allergies in our school. We have a number of children who are at risk of suffering a severe allergic reaction (Anaphylactic Shock) if exposed to nuts and nut products such as, PEANUT BUTTER and NUTELLA.

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction that occurs soon after exposure to a trigger, either by ingesting or touching nuts and nut products.

A child suffering an anaphylactic reaction will show symptoms such as welts, itchy palms and soles, faintness, tingling in the mouth, throat or chest, discomfort and breathing difficulties. As the reaction progresses, breathing difficulty increases due to the swelling of the child's airways.

Adrenaline needs to be administered from an epipen that is available in our office. All staff are trained in the administering of this medication. Parents of students with such allergies are asked to bring an epipen to school with the child's name attached. They will be kept in the office. These precautions are quite serious as there have been cases of children becoming unconscious and cases where death has resulted.

In order to help the school manage such allergies and to ensure that we provide our best duty of care, we are requesting your assistance. Teachers and parents should instruct children **not to share food** and we would also appreciate your co-operation in not sending peanut butter and nut products, including nutella to school.

We acknowledge that this may present some difficulties and it is not easy to enforce, however we appeal for your help in this matter so that we can provide a safer environment for children who suffer from severe allergies. We aim to make our school a "NUT FREE ZONE" for the safety of these children.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Hopley
Principal