



Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth

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Principal: Jason Rhodes

Important School Safety Update: Nut-Free Policy and Sensory Toy Restrictions

Dear Parents, Carers, and Students,

The safety and well-being of every student is our highest priority. To ensure our learning environment remains a safe space for everyone, we are writing to request your cooperation regarding two vital health and safety matters.

I. Strictly Nut-Free School Policy

We have several members of our community with severe, life-threatening allergies to nuts. For these individuals, exposure through skin contact or inhalation can trigger **Anaphylactic Shock**, a medical emergency where the airway swells, blood pressure drops, and the heart can stop.

What to Avoid: Please ensure no nut products are brought onto school premises. Check labels for these common items:

- **Spreads:** Peanut butter, Nutella, or almond butter.
- **Snack/Cereal Bars:** Any bars containing nuts.
- **Confectionery:** Chocolates like Snickers or Ferrero Rocher.
- **Bakery/Health Foods:** Pesto, macarons, trail mixes, or satay sauces.

Our Policy on Prohibited Food Items:

- **Identification:** If a nut-based product is found, it will be removed immediately. Due to risk of airborne allergies the product will need to be securely disregarded and not returned.
- **Replacement:** We will provide the student with a nutritious, nut-free replacement at **no cost to the student**.

2. Restriction on "Squishy" and Sensory Toys

Effective immediately, all "squishy" toys, stress balls, and similar filled sensory items must remain at home. While popular, these items present two significant risks:

- **Rupture Risks:** These toys are often filled with "play sand" or powder that, when ruptured, causes eye irritation and respiratory discomfort.

- **Prohibited Materials:** Recent testing has identified trace amounts of **asbestos** in the fillers of some imported brands. A broken toy can release these fibers into the classroom air.

How you can help:

- Please check school bags to ensure these items are not brought to school.
- If your child requires sensory tools for learning support, please contact the Inclusion Team or email the SENDCo Mr Dixon at m.dixon@bishopsgarth.outwood.com . We provide approved, regulated sensory items that meet safety standards.

A Community Effort

We are asking for your empathy and cooperation in protecting all peers and friends. By following these guidelines, you are quite literally helping to save lives and maintain a healthy environment.

If you have any questions regarding these policies, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Thank you for your swift support.

Warm regards,



Mr Jason Rhodes
Principal