

## Bushes Primary School

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Dear Parent / Carer,

### Providing Birthday Foods for Peers

I am aware that previously when parents have asked school staff to share a cake, sweets etc. with the whole class as a celebration of their child's birthday that this request has been granted. I am writing to you today to make you aware of a change to the school policy in this regard and the reasons behind this change.

The school acknowledges that birthdays are special days for children and these are often marked in classrooms by teachers e.g. by singing 'Happy Birthday' etc. However, we do not feel that it is appropriate to distribute birthday food to the whole class to mark a child's birthday for the reasons set out below:

- the increasing number of children who have allergies
- the desire to avoid creating an increasing sense of expectation within classes that each child should bring 'birthday treats' to share with their peers
- the need to adhere to the wishes of those parents who have specifically requested that their child is not given any treats for which they have not given their prior consent

For these reasons, the school respectfully requests that parents refrain from sending in birthday foods to be distributed to classmates during the school day.

There may be occasions during the year where the class teacher might provide foodstuffs for the children as part of the curricular provision for the class. Examples of these might include baking bread, a fruit party, drinking fruit smoothies and sampling some foods linked to topic work. You will be informed about these occasions in advance by the class teacher.

Please contact me should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig McCrorie".

Craig McCrorie

Head Teacher

**Director of Children's Services: Steven Quinn**  
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