Dear 3/4 A & 3/4 W Parents,

Anaphylaxis is a condition where a person has a severe and sudden allergic reaction. It occurs when the person is exposed to an allergen such as a food or an insect bite. In the majority of recent cases, the allergy is caused by exposure to nuts but other allergens can include foods such as eggs & milk, insect stings, some medicines, shellfish and animals.

Reactions usually begin within minutes of exposure and can progress rapidly over a period of up to 2 hours. Anaphylaxis is potentially life threatening and always require an emergency response.

Like many other pre-schools, childcare centres and schools, Newport Lakes Primary School has a number students that suffer from anaphylaxis. **There are 2 students that have an allergic reaction to different food substances in your child’s working area.** Allergens that must be avoided by these children include all nuts, tahini, shellfish & coconut.

There has been an emergency response plan developed for the children and all staff have received training in managing an anaphylactic reaction at school.

**It is very important that we also provide a safe classroom at school ensuring there are none of these allergens in the child’s environment.**

**We also ask all families to support the school in minimising the exposure of students at risk by not including any of the above food products in your child’s school snack or lunch.** The small inconvenience of not having a peanut butter sandwich, a nut bar etc. in your child’s lunch will greatly assist in making the classroom a much safer place for all our children.

Parents are also to be aware of the risk when your child brings along food to share in the class eg birthday cake. Although children that suffer from anaphylaxis are advised not to eat food supplied by other children, it would be greatly appreciated if any food brought along to school was totally nut free.

If you have any further queries in regards to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher, Kayleen Meehan (First Aid Co-ordinator) or myself and we trust that we can rely on your support with this very important matter.

Yours sincerely

David Moss
Principal