

7 February 2018

Important Information regarding Allergies

As in any environment, we have students with allergies, the most common being nuts, eggs and dairy. Allergic reactions can be so severe that they may be life threatening.

We have students that are severely allergic to **'traces of nuts'** and **dairy** and this is a **life threatening allergy**. For one student, Otto who is based in Tautoru, allergens do not need to be ingested to bring on a severe reaction. These reactions can occur, and have occurred, for Otto when he has come into contact with something or someone that has had, or been around, nuts. It can happen by touching materials that someone else has touched. The nature and character of our school means that students work in different spaces so class routines are encouraged in all areas across the school.

We aim to educate and work in partnership with all students and whānau across the school to provide a safe environment.

We continue to minimise the risk of accidental ingestion or contact with food allergens by using these key strategies:

- Re-iterating to students - NO trading or sharing of food, drink bottles or eating utensils.
- Ensuring students with allergies eat lunches and snacks that have been prepared at home by their caregivers.
- Carefully managing and supervising students during eating times.
- Washing and drying hands before and after eating.
- Wiping down and cleaning surfaces when students must eat inside - due to bad weather.

We ask for your support to keep our school environment safe by:

- Avoiding eggs, muesli/nut bars, whole nuts and peanut butter/nutella spreads, etc, at school.
- Reinforcing the importance of good hand-washing practices before and after eating.
- Reinforcing our message that food is not to be shared at school.

We thank you for your continued support in keeping Worser Bay School inclusive and safe for all students.

If you would like to find out more about this, you can visit:

<http://www.allergy.org.nz/A-Z+Allergies/Managing+allergies+in+education+settings.html>

WBS Teaching Team