



Dear Parents

### **Provision of Birthday Treats for the Class**

On occasions parents have asked school staff to share a cake/buns/ sweets with the whole class as a celebration of their child's birthday . Therefore, it is important to clarify the school's policy in regard to parents providing birthday treats for distribution to their child's classmates.

The school acknowledges that birthdays are special days for children and these are often marked in school by singing 'Happy Birthday' etc. However, we do not feel that it is appropriate to distribute treats 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 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
- the inconvenience and disruption to classroom routine that can be caused by distributing treats during the course of a busy day particularly if there is no classroom assistant placed with the class
- the desire to avoid creating a sense of expectation within classes that each child should bring 'birthday treats' to share with their peers

For these reasons, the school respectfully requests that parents refrain from sending in birthday treats 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, sampling the produce from the eco garden and some fair trade products. You will be informed about these occasions in advance.

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

Yours sincerely

D Donnelly