



St George's Church of England Infant and Preschool

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Dear Parents/Carers

As we begin to settle into the Autumn Term we are writing to share some important updates regarding how we manage severe allergies and keep our pupils safe.

Following a historic change in national legislation, new statutory guidance known as Benedict's Law comes into effect this September. This law is named in memory of five-year-old Benedict Blythe, who tragically passed away following an allergic reaction at school in 2021. His family's dedicated campaign has resulted in a new legal framework designed to close gaps in school allergy safety across England.

Under Benedict's Law, schools are now legally required to maintain a comprehensive, whole- school allergy policy, deliver mandatory anaphylaxis and emergency response training to staff, and ensure immediate access to medical support.

What This Means for Our Families

To comply with these vital safety regulations and ensure your child is fully protected, we require the following actions from parents of children with prescribed Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs), commonly known as EpiPens:

1. **Two In-Date EpiPens:** you must provide two identical, in-date adrenaline auto-injectors to the school before the first day of term in September. Having two pens available is a critical safety standard, ensuring a backup is immediately on hand if a second dose is ever required.
2. **Any other medication such as antihistamines or inhalers:** if these are a requirement they must be in school with the Auto-Injectors.
3. **Check Expiry Dates:** please check the expiration dates on the pens before handing them over to the school office, and make a note to replace them before they expire.

Important Reminder:

The school cannot legally or safely permit a child with a known, severe prescribed allergy to remain at school or go on school trips without their required, in-date medication on site. This therefore means that we will ask you to collect your child if they do not have their two, in-date adrenaline auto-injectors with them at school.

Our Commitment to Safety

In accordance with the new legal guidelines, our school will continue with the following measures:

- Staff Training: as usual, all school staff will undergo comprehensive training before the start of the new school year so they can quickly recognize the signs of an allergic reaction and confidently administer an auto-injector.
- Emergency Backups: the school has stock secondary "spare" emergency adrenaline auto- injectors to use as a fallback if a child's personal pens misfire or are unavailable. **Please be aware, these spares cannot be regarded as your child's second pen.**
- Rigorous Record-Keeping: we will continue to record any medical needs and we will log any incidents or near-misses to continuously improve our environment.

Please return your child's two adrenaline auto-injectors provided by your health professional to the main school office urgently.

Thank you for your cooperation in making our school a safe place for every child. We recommend that you take this information with you to your GP to support your request for two auto- injectors.

Regards

St George's CE Infant & Preschool