

RE: Birthdays at St Christophers Academy

Dear Parent/ Carer(s),

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to share some important information regarding the celebration of birthdays within St Christophers Academy.

As you know, birthdays are a special time for children, and we understand how much they enjoy celebrating them with their classmates. However, after careful consideration, we have decided to make some changes to how we celebrate birthdays at school. Going forward, we kindly request that parents do not bring in cakes, party bags, or other treats to share with the class.

This decision has been made for several important reasons:

1. **Allergies and Dietary Restrictions:** We have a number of children with various allergies and dietary requirements. Ensuring their safety is our top priority, and managing the risk of allergic reactions is crucial.
2. **Healthy School:** We are working towards achieving the Healthy Schools Award. Children bringing in sweets and cakes (almost daily) does not support this.
3. **Parental Consent:** When food or treats are brought in, we cannot guarantee that all parents have consented to their child receiving these items. We want to respect every family's individual choices regarding their child's diet and religious or cultural beliefs.
4. **Cost and Financial Pressure:** We understand that providing cakes or party bags can be an additional cost for families. We do not wish to create any undue financial pressure or feelings of obligation for parents to provide such items.
5. **Educational Environment:** Our primary purpose as a school is to provide an environment focused on learning and development. Whilst we value the celebration of special moments, we believe it is important to keep our focus on education during school hours.

We kindly ask that parents celebrate their child's birthday outside of school with family and friends. However, we also want to ensure that our students feel special and valued on their birthdays. As a school we will recognise birthdays in different ways, these will include:

- I will announce upcoming birthdays of the week (or weekend/school holiday) in my weekly celebration assembly. Three cheers will be had to celebrate these children.
- Each child will receive a special birthday certificate from the school.
- The children will also have the opportunity to be sung to in their classroom.

I hope you will understand and support these changes, which we believe are in the best interests of all our children and the school community as a whole. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,



Miss Hayes
Head of School