



Bandon Hill Primary School
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Headteacher: Mr R Hopkins MEd NPQH



Friday 11th September 2026

Benedict's Law Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Celebrating our pupils' birthdays is a wonderful part of school life, and we love making children feel special on their big day. However, following the implementation of **Benedict's Law**—which became mandatory statutory guidance for schools in England from **September 2026**—we are updating our school allergy safety policies.

Effective immediately, we will no longer be permitting edible birthday treats (such as cakes, sweets, or home-baked goods) to be brought into school to share. We must also ask that parents and carers do not hand out any food items before or after school on the school premises.

What is Benedict's Law?

Benedict's Law was introduced through new Department for Education statutory guidance (*Allergy Safety in Schools*) following the tragic death of five-year-old Benedict Blythe from an allergic reaction at school. To ensure all pupils are protected, the law requires schools to enforce strict allergen management, minimise exposure risks, and maintain robust safety procedures.

Because home-brought treats carry a high risk of cross-contamination or hidden allergens, removing edible gifts ensures we protect pupils with severe food allergies and remain fully compliant with these legal requirements.

We still want your child to enjoy their special day with their classmates! In place of food, you are welcome to mark the occasion with non-edible alternatives, such as:

Small items for the class (e.g. pencils, stickers, or bookmarks)

Donating a book to the classroom reading corner in your child's name

Bringing in a story or game for the class to share during registration

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work together to keep every child safe at school. Please do contact the school office if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Mr Hopkins, Headteacher



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