

St. John's Church of England VA Primary School

Priory, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 9EJ

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3rd July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

You may have heard on the news recently about '**Benedict's Law**' and that **allergy** management in schools is soon to be covered by new statutory guidance.

The information that you share with us, helps us as a school meet our duty of care for your child/ren.

This means that it is vitally important that we receive the current and correct medical information about your child/ren.

It is very important that we understand the difference between allergies and intolerances; both of which are also very different from food preferences.

ALLERGIES involve an **immune system response** to allergens, which can lead to a wide range of symptoms, **including potentially life-threatening reactions**.

INTOLERANCES, on the other hand, result from the body's inability to process specific substances, primarily causing **digestive symptoms**.

Common types of food intolerances include **lactose intolerance and gluten intolerance**, which are more prevalent than food allergies.

If your child has any **allergies**, please ensure that as a school we are aware of this, as soon as possible, even if this has been previously shared, so that we have current, accurate information.

Please tell us about the medical condition and medication details. Please also share with us any Individual Healthcare Plans that will have been given to you by medical professionals.

You can speak to the office staff or contact me about this, which will help us as a school keep your child safe.

Kind Regards

Laura Plant

Pastoral Deputy Headteacher

We take child protection extremely seriously at our school. If you have a concern, you can speak to any of the school's designated and trained Child Protection officers: **Mr Priestley, Mrs Plant or Miss Roberts**. Alternatively, you can ring Somerset Direct on: **0300 123 2224**



Sharing joy and hope in the community.