



BIRTHDAY TREATS .....  
NO THANK YOU!



You will be aware of media coverage relating to students who have suffered severe, sometimes fatal, medical and anaphylactic attacks. Unfortunately, food allergies and medical issues are also a student risk management issue at Hallam Primary School, requiring stringent management processes to reduce potential hazards and risks.

While we have a significant level of control over the food supplied through our Parent Group, *Active After Schools* Program, camp providers, etc., we do not have the same level of control over items brought to school by parents/carers.

We understand that it is a wonderful time when a student celebrates their birthday, and teachers do acknowledge these special times with stickers, singing '*Happy Birthday*', choosing a special game, etc.

It is very difficult however, for **everyone** to share these happy moments when many students, who have food allergies or medical conditions, are unable to share the cake, lollies or birthday balloons. Many students who suffer from diabetes, anaphylaxis, food additive and colouring hypersensitivity, allergy to latex (balloons), asthma, etc. are affected, and this may be as many as half the class.

Hallam PS is a Healthy Eating and a GFYL school, and as well as being health-conscious, we respect the needs of students who have these types of issues. When a birthday treat comes to school to be shared, (and there could be several in one week!) staff must first check student confidential medical files to determine who can/cannot share in the treat.

Consequently, many students regularly miss out because of their allergy or medical condition. While many parents may not realise this, our professional staff are acutely aware. At school, we are expected to reduce the risk of allergic reactions among students, such as the potentially fatal anaphylaxis that can be triggered by nuts, food additives and materials like latex, so Hallam PS requests that **birthday treats not be brought to school, but are left for those very special family and children's parties at home.**

**Thank you.**