

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Ascot Vale Primary School Guidelines for Parents

Families have been surveyed by the Unit Parent Representative group in response to some parental concerns over the amount and type of food sent to school by to celebrate birthdays. The response to this issue has been diverse and no clear consensus of opinion as a school community has emerged. Discussion at school amongst students, teachers and School Councillors following this survey has resulted in the publication of these guidelines:

- Birthdays are special events for young children and a time of celebration and will be acknowledged at school as they occur
- Families may choose to send food or small token to their child's classroom for distribution at the end of that day. For safety reasons, please do not send lollipops on sticks or other items that might cause injury during play.
- In making their choices, parents are asked to be respectful of the fact that many families in this school community value the development of healthy eating habits and that many children at AVPS have nut and other food allergies. Ensuring small portions of any food sent to share at school is therefore helpful.
- As a school community wanting to model sustainable practices, less packaging and wrapping might be a further consideration.

THE SCHOOL WILL:

- Acknowledge individual birthdays in the newsletter each week
- Provide 'Birthday' stickers to all Units for each child to wear at school on their birthday
- Distribute any additional items related to children's birthdays at the end of the school day. Staff will ask the children to take all food or items home with them.

The School Council and School Administration expect that parents will counsel their own child around managing any food allergies and any dietary expectations or limits that they have for their own children. As necessary, parents are asked to inform the Unit teachers in writing if they would like their child to be excluded from classroom birthday celebrations. There is clearly no expectation that all families will want to celebrate their child's birthday at school at all.