



NEWSLETTER 36/2025

17 FEBRUARY 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian

**RE: FOOD SAFETY**

Following recent reports in the media of school children consuming items that have led to some losing their lives, we find it necessary to once again ask you to support us in our drive on food safety and security. (Please refer to the reverse of this page).

We appeal to you to encourage our children to not purchase from street vendors and stores that do not maintain acceptable standards of hygiene. Unbranded food items must not be consumed. Many of our learners are still dependent on snacks such as sweets and chips as their meal for the day, which they purchase on route to school. This is of serious concern.

In addition, a few of our learners have broken school rules by selling food items at school. This is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated, especially taking into account the context of the high risks attached to food consumption presently.

As much as we do not want to create alarm, let us take precautionary measures and protect our children. We remind you of Lunch Box Wednesday which we introduced at the start of the month and we are hopeful that this will become the daily trend.

We look forward to your full support

Sincerely

**Mrs S.Michael**  
**(Acting Deputy Principal)**

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**BRETTONWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

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12 February 2025

**Girl, 7, dies after eating chips contaminated with a deadly insecticide**

**A former Durban family are devastated after their 7-year-old daughter died from food poisoning after allegedly eating chips contaminated with a deadly insecticide.**

Azra Rahim, 7, of Brakpan, in the East Rand, suffered multiple organ failure hours after she had allegedly eaten a packet of Go-Slo maize-based chips. Tests revealed traces of Terbufos, a deadly insecticide that is used to get rid of insects and rodents, in her bloodstream.

The Grade 3 pupil, who would have celebrated her 8th birthday tomorrow (February 13), died on January 30.

Her aunt, Cylcia Pillay, of Phoenix, said her niece took ill a few hours returning home from school.

She said that when her sister, Carmyn Crystal Pillay, fetched Azra from school, she was eating the chips and continued to do so in the car.

"At the time, my sister did not think to ask her about the chips or where she had gotten it from," said Pillay.

Azra Rahim, 7, of Brakpan, in the East Rand, suffered multiple organ failure hours after she had allegedly eaten a packet of Go-Slo maize-based chips which had been purchased at a tuckshop in Benoni. He said they believed that the chips had been exposed to the insecticide before it had been brought to the tuckshop.

Pillay said they decided to go public with Azra's story in a bid to create an awareness for other parents and to try and prevent them from going through such grief.

"We want to educate parents about the dangers of buying snacks from tuckshops or street vendors. It is not safe.

"It is also important to note that children should not share food. Food safety is critical. We are hoping to create awareness so that another family does not have to feel our pain," said Pillay.

3 November 2024

Another child has died of suspected food poisoning in Alexandra.

The 10-year-old fell ill after eating snacks bought from a local spaza shop.

21 November 2024

The Gauteng Department of Education has confirmed the death of a Grade R learner from Dumezweni Primary School in Diepkloof due to suspected food-borne illness.

MEC Matome Chiloane confirmed the five-year-old boy died on Wednesday, November 20, and a further three children from the same school have been hospitalised after experiencing similar symptoms.

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