“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it” Proverbs 22:6

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Headteacher: Mr Mike Taylor

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you that all liquid and gel-filled "Squishy" toys are now not allowed in school.

While we recognise that these sensory and fidget items are highly popular, this decision follows several recent incidents at our school where these toys have burst during class and playtimes. Our primary concern is the safety and well-being of our pupils, and recent testing and safety recalls have highlighted significant risks associated with the liquids contained inside these products.

Please note that we fully support students who rely on sensory items for focus and emotional regulation. Solid foam squishies, plastic pop-its, tangles and textured sensory rings remain perfectly acceptable to bring from home. Furthermore, to ensure all children have safe options, the school will now provide a dedicated set of approved, school-vetted sensory toys in every classroom and within our Nurture Nest facility for those who need them.

Over the last few months, safety regulators and trading standards have issued urgent warnings regarding these viral toys, particularly the popular "squishy dumpling" and food-mimicking varieties heavily promoted on TikTok.

We ask that you support this ban due to the following safety risks:

- **Chemical Toxicity and Health Risks:** Laboratory testing on many of these items has revealed they contain dangerous levels of hazardous compounds, including benzene, a known carcinogen. Exposure to the ruptured liquids can lead to immediate respiratory issues, dizziness, headaches, and severe skin or eye irritation.
- **Choking and Internal Blockage Dangers:** Many cheap or copycat versions tear very easily, and the contents, which often resembles white cream or contains expanding water beads, pose a severe choking and ingestion hazard to younger children.

Regulatory bodies, including the UK Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS), have launched national recalls and seized thousands of non-compliant toys due to these exact safety infractions. Some local authorities have already enacted similar school-wide restrictions to protect pupils.

Please check your child’s school bag to ensure any liquid or gel-filled items are left at home. Any liquid or gel squishies brought to school will be held in the main office for a parent to collect.

Thank you for your cooperation and shared commitment to keeping our school environment safe.

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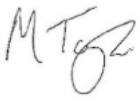
Yours sincerely



Mr Taylor
Headteacher

Useful links and references:

https://capt.org.uk/squishy-toys-warning/