## Nursery Freezing Guidelines



At Nursery Kitchen, our meals are lovingly prepared using the freshest ingredients and delivered chilled. We ask all our Nursery Partners to order extra meals to be used for emergencies (contingency meals). Please read the guidance below carefully to ensure that your contingency meals are just as delicious as the chilled meals that we deliver.

When freezing our meals, it is essential you follow your Food Safety Management system on food handling in addition to our NK freezing guidelines. This will ensure that your meals are always safe to eat, while remaining tasty and full of nutrients. The temperature of a freezer should be -18°C.

Most Nursery Kitchen food that hasn't been cooked by your nursery are suitable for freezing right up to the 'use by' date printed on the label. However, we highly recommend you freeze the meals as soon as they have been delivered.

Always refer to label for freezing recommendations on label as follows:



The snowflake symbol means that the dish is suitable for freezing

Dishes that are not suitable for freezing will display 'DO NOT FREEZE'

Please be aware that freezing guidelines for individual dishes may be subject to change. You can refer to the ordering portal, the allergen portal and the dish label for up-to-date information. On the ordering portal, dishes that are suitable for freezing will say 'FZ', if this text is not displayed it means the dish is not suitable for freezing.

## Contingency meals

As per our Terms and Conditions, you must hold enough frozen meals to feed all children for one day. This is essential to ensure that you are always able to feed the children in your care, should something unexpected occur. For example, if your fridge were to break down, or if weather conditions prevented us from being able to deliver.

Please rest assured that we will always do everything we can to ensure that we meet agreed delivery dates and times.

It is your nursery's responsibility to order and store the emergency meals. Emergency meals may be kept frozen for a **maximum of three months from the freeze date for unopened trays only.** 

Orders made from the contingency frozen meals option in Saffron will be produced and delivered chilled, in the same way as your normal fresh orders. Contingency meals are available to order every Wednesday in the 'Contingency Meals' tab on the ordering portal.

You must label and freeze these meals accordingly.



## Preparing a contingency meal

When you'd like to use a frozen meal, **you must cook straight from frozen**, ensuring core temperature reaches 83°C.

As soon as a contingency meal has been consumed, remember to order more food through the contingency meal tab on the ordering portal.

In the case of an emergency and you do not have any contingency meals we have produced two simple recipes that you can prepare in your setting. Please find the recipe cards attached to the Knowledge Base article.

