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Tuesday 25 April 2023

Changes to the School Day from September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will recall, back in the Spring term we held a parent consultation around the length of our school day. At 30 hours per week, our current working week is 2.5 hours shorter than the majority of other schools, both in the local area but also nationally.

We received a total of 69 responses – mostly from parents but some from staff members and external clubs. The breakdown of responses was as follows:

- Against any change – 26%
- Supportive of changing either the morning or the afternoon time (not both) – 22%
- Supportive of any change – 44%
- No opinion either way – 8%

Many of the responses against all or some change was due to the circumstances personal to that family. Many responses supported an earlier start but not an end time that was later than the Junior School.

While we understand that change may bring some challenges for some families, having discussed the responses and comments in detail, the Governing Body have decided that from September 2023, we will be extending our school day by 15 minutes to bring us more in line with other schools.

As of September, our timings will be as follows:

Gates open 8.35 – 8.45am
The school day will begin at 8.45am
The school day will end at 3.00pm

We agree with many of you that it does not make sense for us to finish later than the Junior School. As they are not going to be changing their times, we cannot, at this time, finish later than 3pm, hence we are only extending the day by 15 minutes rather than the full 30 minutes which would bring us in line with other schools.

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Headteacher: Mrs Sally Dreckmann BEd (Hons) NPQH



As a Governing Body we talked about the benefits of children being in school for more time. It is not that case that we are going to say 'this 15 minutes each day is being ear-marked for ...' As teachers we feel that there is never enough time to do everything that we want and need to do for your children to support their learning and well-being. 15 minutes extra in our days allows us to spend more time:

- running interventions
- consolidating previous learning
- discussing next steps of learning
- talking more with the children
- doing some of the activities that we currently try and shoehorn into an odd few minutes, such as handwriting, mental maths, extra phonics reinforcement, practising spellings, etc.

An extra 15 minutes a day also allows us to have the option of spending more time on things, for example a teacher could get all the literacy, maths and phonics done in a morning and block an afternoon just to focus on doing art, for example. There are many possibilities when there is a bit more time to use, but please be assured it will be used effectively and to benefit your children.

Yours sincerely



Sally Dreckmann (Headteacher) on behalf of The Governing Body

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