



Waterbeach Community Primary School

Learning - Laughter - Friendship

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Dear Parents and Carers,

School day timings in September 2021

At the current time we do not have any Government guidance about how school is to be organised in September. We are assuming that we will be able to reopen without any restrictions. I am writing to let you know that we will be changing the times for opening and closing across the school. I understand that change is always difficult, but as we have been in a fluctuating situation for the past 15 months with arrangements changing at the drop of a hat, it seemed appropriate to make these changes before we get back into the “normal” school routine.

Fundamentally, the school is growing, and this is causing us difficulties in arranging lunchtimes. We will have over 450 children in September. The school hall is simply not big enough to get all hot lunches seated in one sitting safely. We want to give children time to eat their lunch and reduce crowding. We have also found that having lunch times of 45 minutes during the last few terms has had a very positive impact on the behaviour of children outside. Play times have been more focused and children have still had time to eat and get a decent break before returning to class. We have therefore decided to stagger our lunchtimes to allow all our children to move through the dining hall. We will be maintaining the 45 minutes lunch time break.

The school doors will open for children at 8.45 and the register will open at 8.55 (this is the time that the children must be in school for). Pre COVID, the doors opened at 8.45 and the registers were started at 9am. The children will still have a morning break.
The school will close at 3pm instead of 3.20pm.

This means that the time in classrooms will not change – children will still be in school for five hours and twenty minutes as was the case pre COVID.

Timings will be:

KS1/ EYFS –

MORNING – 8.55-12.00 doors open for children at 8.45 but the register starts at 8.55

LUNCH – 12.00-12.45 (Children in Reception classes will start lunch at 11.45 in order for them to have a little longer to eat their lunch.)

AFTERNOON – 12.45 – 3.00

KS 2-

MORNING – 8.55-12.30 doors open at 8.45 but the register starts at 8.55

LUNCH – 12.30-1.15

AFTERNOON – 1.15 – 3.00



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We are sure many of you will be concerned about children's wellbeing with a reduced lunch break time. We have observed children being far happier during the shortened lunch times. We know that they can eat their lunch well within this time. We also have several support strategies for children who are struggling, led by the well being team who work with Mrs Tregoin. There is no doubt that our bid to put more equipment in the playground will also help to increase the quality of break times. Our aim is a good quality break rather than a long drawn-out time where the children get bored and annoyed with each other.

We are aware that for some of you the arrangements to collect your children could cause you problems in September, when you may be returning to work and worrying about how you will pick up your children. To help you we have allocated a teaching assistant to supervise any children who are picked up late for the half an hour between 3.00 to 3.30pm. This is only for emergencies, and we hope that it will help you as we get used to the changes.

If you know that you are going to be late you will need to ring the office and ask us to keep your child in this facility until you are able to get here. If you are going to be later than 3.30, however, please book your child into the wrap around care clubs as you would normally – Wasps or Premier Education.

As our school grows, we do need to adjust to ensure that our children are safe and supported. Hopefully, we have given you enough notice to be able to manage this change. This change has been approved by the Governors and will be reviewed regularly.

Thank you all for your understanding and cooperation in yet another change for our school.

Yours sincerely

Miss Jane Green



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