

Dear Parents and Carers,

Since the letter announcing the new after school wraparound care, several parents have contacted us asking questions about the proposal and the changes to the current provision. In light of this, by way of consultation, we would like to give parents and providers more time to consider the proposals. Additionally, there has been new government legislation relating to qualifications of educational and childcare providers that we need to take into account.

As a result, we have decided to postpone the opening of the after school care until September 2017.

We have informed providers and, for next term, they have decided to offer the same clubs as are currently offered, in addition the school are offering forestry sessions with Ms Wolff.

Monday	Creative Dance with Mrs Brierley weesue@hotmail.com 07747 065296	3.30- 4.30pm
Monday	Forestry schools with Ms Wolff Contact the school for more information	3.30-5pm
Tuesday	Art Club with Mrs Brierley weesue@hotmail.com 07747 065296	3.30 – 4.30pm
		4.30 – 5.30pm
Wednesday	Football/Multi-sports with Coach Clayton TEXT - child's name, age and 1 hour/2 hour TO - 07977253693	3.30 – 4.30pm
		4.30 – 5.30pm
Thursday	Rugby with Mrs Drake 07879 687847 debs752@hotmail.com	3.30 – 4.30pm
		4.30 – 5.30pm
Friday	Street Dance with Mrs Brierley weesue@hotmail.com 07747 065296	3.30 – 4.30pm

We apologise for any inconvenience or disappointment caused by the decision to delay. This is not a decision that we have taken lightly, we recognise that some of you may have already started planning for next half term and we would not have made this decision if we did not feel that it was really essential. Please be assured that we remain committed to putting in place the after school care provision.

To assist you in considering and commenting on the proposal, rather than reply to each query we have had separately, we have set the questions and school's responses out below. After these questions and answers, we have also included a few details relating to changes to policies relating to hall bookings which are relevant to the provision offered.

Why do we need an after school club?

We hope to put after school care in place because current parents have asked for it, prospective parents have indicated that is something they look for when choosing a school and we believe it will improve the security of the school's future. Kirk Smeaton is a small school. The number of pupils enrolled at the school has fallen in the last few years. Given the population of the catchment area and the information we are able to get about numbers of children we may have coming into Reception in the next few years, it seems likely that this trend will continue unless we can encourage parents to send their children here. Broadly speaking, school budgets are determined by the number of pupils enrolled at the school so ultimately it's a simple equation – the fewer pupils enrolled, the harder it is to make ends meet. There are lots of good reasons for a parent to choose this school. It's a lovely school, in a friendly, welcoming village, with a dedicated, energetic and creative teaching staff. But, as things stand, it doesn't provide a comprehensive after-school care service. We're told that, for working parents in the village – and for parents from outside who are considering the school as one of the options for their children – the present lack of "wraparound" care after school can cause difficulties.

What will after school club look like?

The after school club will provide a friendly environment where children of all ages can take part in activities such as baking, art and games as well as accessing some of our outdoor areas or completing homework/projects if the children wish. We have initially employed Mrs Humphreys as an after school club worker and have two additional support staff available if our numbers expand. We will remain within safe limits (ratio of staff to children) and provide age appropriate activities. In addition, a sandwich and fruit will be provided.

Is this a trial? If not, will any changes be made in the future?

As far as the provision of care between 3.30pm until 6pm is concerned, no. We have delayed the start of the after school care but, when it starts, we will not be viewing the provision of care as a trial.

But, as to how this works in practice? We'll keep things under review. We want to make sure this is a success for the families which it serves and for school itself. We will continue to want to hear how it's working for you in practice and will improve the model if we can.

Why was there no consultation with parents and carers? Why were none of the providers consulted before the change was announced?

We had clear feedback from current and prospective parents that wraparound childcare was something we should strive to provide. We genuinely believed that offering this additional service would be welcomed by everyone. In hindsight, that was probably a hasty decision, and particularly in the context of the changes that this new model made to the existing after-school clubs. We're sorry that we didn't consult about this beyond discussing it with the providers. In addition to the informal feedback from current and prospective parents that we already had, a concern for the school was

to appoint the right staff and we felt we needed to appoint staff before we could promise anything for the future. To be clear, we did discuss the changes with all of the providers before the letter announcing the new provision was sent out. We are now giving parents and carers a consultation opportunity over the next month to get in touch with us with any question, comments or suggestions in relation to after school care provision. This letter explains more fully why we have decided to introduce the provision but, if you would like to understand this further, please do ask.

Why split KS1 and KS2 for the private provider activities and why are the KS2 classes in general before the KS1 groups?

Until now, the current private provider activities have been used by some parents, at least in part, to fill a child care need. By introducing the school wraparound care, we hoped to remove the need for private providers to cater for parents or children who do not really want to participate in the sole activity on offer, freeing them up to concentrate on the specific activity they are providing. Splitting the attendance at the private provider sessions by key stage, was an attempt to enable provision to be tailored in an age appropriate way. We understand not everyone will need the after-school care and we wanted to, as much as possible, avoid the situation where parents who wanted their children to take part in private provider specific activities but do not need wraparound care, had to either take their children home and then come back again later or access the wraparound care before their activity start time. We looked at the numbers who access the current after school clubs and, in the main, there were more KS2 children than KS1. To cause as little disruption to as few children/parents as possible we then structured the clubs to reflect this. In addition, it was more likely to be the older children who may go on to other activities outside school (cubs, guides etc.) and that ensuring their school clubs fell at 3.30pm meant that they would still be able to do all these things and current providers would not lose these children. Based on all the feedback provided, our current thinking is that we will not require the key stage split at private provider activities.

Were any other options considered?

At the heart of our thinking has been the desire to keep the provision of high-quality, community-based after school provision. In principle, the school provide after school provision exclusively, but we felt that the school, the community and, most importantly, the children benefit so much from the variety of activity, commitment and passion of the other providers that it made no sense to lose that. In fact, that very variety will, we hope, be a real selling point of our provision.

Is school planning to not have other providers at all? No.

Is it true that this is all about the school making money?

No. The purpose is to offer a level of wraparound care with a view to helping keep the school sustainable. The fees for the after-school club are intended to do no more than cover the costs of provision. If it's successful, then it could generate a profit. If it does, that profit will be reinvested in the school.

Is there a possibility of any other sports or activities such as drama being added?

If parents and children want us to look at expanding what is currently on offer we are more than happy to look at this.

Changes to management of the school hall and related policies

The school hall is owned by NYCC, whilst the community development group (set up when the hall was built) have very kindly played a large role in bookings and matters related to this, the hall should have always been managed by the school and it has been decided that this responsibility will revert to school by the end of this half term. As this is the case, governors and the headteacher have updated policies relating to hire arrangements to bring them more in line with the NYCC model policies. Due to the new terms and conditions in the policies, the hall hire for after school club provision has a ratio of 20 children to one trained provider. Providers are able to employ additional adults to increase this number.

Proposal for September 2017

For reasons set out in this letter, the proposed offering for September that we are now consulting on is after school care available from 3.30-6pm. In addition, private provider clubs available, in a similar format to those currently offered (providers may change these at any time).

Charges are per child and per day. Attending the after school care only.	3.30-6pm	£7
	3.30-5pm	£4
	4.30-6pm	£4
	5.30-6pm	£2

This consultation is open to parents and providers until **Tuesday 25th April**. Please send your comments by email or letter to school marked for the attention of the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors.

Kind regards

Mrs Cuddy (Headteacher)

Mrs Rawson (Chair of Governors) on behalf of all the Governing body