



Kirk Smeaton Church of England Primary School
Main Street, Kirk Smeaton, Pontefract
West Yorkshire, WF8 3JY

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In association with Went Valley Pre-School and Breakfast Club
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Headteacher: Mrs H Cuddy

Date: Friday, 11th June 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I write to you regarding some changes and continuities that surround the school day that have been approved by the governing body.

Continuing the school day as it currently is without staggered times (8.50am – 3pm)

Depending on restrictions, we hope that from September 2021 the school day will be 8.50am -3pm without staggered times. We have seen a number of benefits for the children and it has been agreed to keep the shorter school day in place over the next academic year but to remove the staggered times (see below). This change will be kept under review.

We made the decision in September 2020 to change the school day and reduce the length of the lunch break. This enabled us to reduce and monitor the mixing of children and staff at lunchtime and playtime as required by COVID Healthy and Safety. Previously, school started at 9am and finished at 3.25pm (for children in Starfish and Dolphins classes) / 3.30pm (for children in Lions and Eagles classes). School will start at 8.50am and finish at 3pm for all children. This is a reduction of the school day by 15-20 minutes. The details of how the school day has been reduced and the benefits can be found on the school website at <http://www.kirksmeaton.n-yorks.sch.uk/newsletters-news/2020-2021/>.

Staggered drop off and pickups

From September 2021, we hope that staggered start and end times will stop and the school day will be 8.50am-3pm for all classes. We used the staggered times to reduce mixing (including of parents and carers), but as we are a small school with lots of siblings and clubs, the practical benefit of the staggered start times is reducing as the COVID restrictions are lifting. The impact of this change will be monitored and kept under review especially in light of the new COVID variant. An updated risk assessment will be shared with parents and carers when we know more about the lifting of any restrictions. We are carefully considering the logistics for drop off and pick up and these will also be subject to any continued restrictions into the Autumn. Further communications will be sent around this.

The school bus

Any updated information will be sent to parents who access this service.

The after-school club

The after-school club will continue to operate from 3-5.30pm. We have experienced reduced numbers since opening and at the present it is not financially viable to operate until 6pm. This will be reviewed in October 21.

Private providers

Currently we have one provider, Debbie Drake, providing a range of clubs throughout the week. Going forward, we hope that we can offer a range of opportunities, so we would like to hear from parents and children about other clubs that they would like to see.

Breakfast club

Let God's love shine as we care for each other and learn together.

We are looking to open a breakfast club in September. We hope to operate the breakfast club from 7.30-8.50am. More information will be shared at a later date. We do need a new member of staff to operate this and are currently advertising. If you know of anyone who might be interested in this position, please do let them know. A copy of the advert can be found here <http://www.kirksmeaton.n-yorks.sch.uk/staff/staff-vacancies/>

Thank you for your continued support,

Kindest regards

Mrs Cuddy

Let God's love shine as we care for each other and learn together.