



Wednesday 3rd May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Minimum expectation on the length of the school week from September 2023

The Department for Education (DfE) has placed an expectation on state-funded mainstream schools that they should deliver a school week of at least 32.5 hours by September 2023. The expectation is that schools currently offering a school week of below 32.5 hours should work towards increasing their hours to provide at least 32.5 hours by September 2023 at the latest.

The 32.5 hour minimum expectation includes the time in each day from the official start of the school day (i.e. morning registration) to the official end to the compulsory school day (i.e. official home time). The 32.5 hour minimum includes breaks and lunch times as well as teaching time. It does not include optional before or after school wraparound care or extracurricular provision. The 32.5 hour minimum expectation equates to a six and a half hour day, Monday to Friday, or the equivalent of a school being open to pupils from, for example, 8.40am to 3.10pm each day. As you will obviously know, while we finish at 3.10pm, we currently operate a 'relaxed start' which means that children can arrive anytime between 8.40am and registration at 8.55am. While the majority of our children are in class just after 8.40am, our current, flexible arrangement and our registration time of 8.55am means that we are 15 minutes short per day of the DfE expectation.

As such, **the timings of the school day will be changed with effect from September 2023.** Please take note of the following information so that you are able to be well prepared for the new academic year:

- Radcliffe Gardens and Harbury Road gates will now be opened, and supervised by a senior leader and/or member of admin staff, at 8.30am. Registers will be taken at 8.40am and so children need to be in their classrooms by this time.
- Any child arriving after 8.40am will be marked as late.
- Both gates will be closed at 8.40am.
- There are no changes to the start and end timings for Nursery i.e. Caterpillars and Dragonflies will continue to start at 8.45am. Therefore, any parents dropping off Nursery children will need to exit via the Harbury path because the other gates will be closed.

The removal of the flexible, relaxed start, and the introduction of all children being registered at 8.40am will bring consistency for children and staff, ensuring that the learning activities that are currently being provided at 8.40am will be accessed by all children and not just those arriving when the gate first opens. This can only be beneficial for children's progress and attainment.

Yours sincerely,

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Headteacher



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