

# HANDSWORTH NEWS

BRANCHING OUT, GROWING TALL  
HAND IN HAND, ONE AND ALL



Handsworth  
Primary School

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Well, here we are! The end of the academic year and what a year it has been. This year has challenged us all, been so difficult at times, but also allowed us to appreciate just what a wonderful community we are.

When I reflect on the year, I remember the many times the staff have shown incredible resilience and determination to provide opportunities for our children. I think of parents and carers who have supported us and also provided support for other families. I also think about those parents and carers who had to become teachers overnight and may still be trying to get over the experience. Most of all, I think of **our wonderful children**, who continue to impress us all with their attitude, love for each other and ability to make Handsworth the happy thriving place it is. Yes, we have had challenges, yes we have all made mistakes, but we are learning and we are learning together, making sure we continue to put our values at the centre of everything we do and keeping our children's needs and wellbeing as our main priority.

I would like to wish the children and staff who are leaving Handsworth all the best for the future, you will always be part of the Handsworth family. Thank you all for supporting us through this time, it really means so much. I wish you all a restful, enjoyable summer break.

Mrs Nairne.



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Friends of Handsworth

# SUMMER PICNIC

On Highams Park School Field  
Saturday 24th July 11-5pm

Access through Handsworth  
Primary School entrance

Entrance £2 pp  
Under 12's free

FOOD  
STALLS  
MUSIC AND  
ENTERTAINMENT  
THROUGHOUT  
THE DAY

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Summer Picnic. Thank you Friends of Handsworth for continuing to raise money for our school despite the pandemic! You have been creative and determined to make a difference and we really appreciate it!





# Parent Information Meeting

Hear from your child's new teachers

Routines and procedures

The Curriculum

Chance to ask questions

The meetings will be held on Zoom. A link will be sent out nearer the time.

Year 1	Thursday 9th September 4pm
Year 2	Wednesday 15th September 8am
Year 3	Thursday 16th September 4pm
Year 4	Thursday 16th September 8am
Year 5	Wednesday 8th September 8am
Year 6	Tuesday 14th September 4pm

We will also record the session for those who can not attend.

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Goodbye and Good Luck Year 6!

We are so proud of you and you you have achieved during your time at Handsworth.

We will all miss you so much!

# Changes to the School Day

As you know, we have been reflecting on the changes we have made due to the pandemic. Whilst it has been a very challenging time, we have also learnt how things can be done more efficiently. We always like to ask ourselves **why** we do the things we do. Our school values underpin everything we do here and when thinking about any changes we make sure that we are doing it for the good of the children. As a result of this we have decided to make two changes to the school day at Handsworth. From September we will be implementing **Soft Starts** and **Staggered finish times**.

## What is a Soft Start?

Soft starts at Handsworth mean that children can arrive in class any time between 8.35am to 8.50am. The register will be taken at 8.50am when school will officially start.

## Why are we moving to a soft start?

Since we returned back to school from lockdown many classes have been using soft starts to support families where siblings have different start times. We have found that soft starts have led to calmer more purposeful mornings. We also can see that they have been supportive for families with multiple children in school as there is no need to rush when dropping children off at their individual classes.

## What are the new staggered finish times?

From September:

Nursery will start at 8.30 and finish at 3.10

Reception will finish at 3.10pm

KS1 (Years 1 & 2) will finish at 3.20pm

KS2 (Years 3 - 6) will finish at 3.30pm

## Why are we moving to staggered finish times?

We have found that staggered finishes have meant that the end of the day is less congested. Parents have time to pick up siblings in different year groups and speak to teachers if needed.

*All of these changes are dependant of government guidance regarding Covid-19. However if all restrictions are lifted this is the current plan for September 2021*





Year 6