



Dear Parents and Carers,

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 8.30am and finish at 3.10pm

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 dependent on government guidance regarding Covid-19. However if all restrictions are lifted this is the current plan for September 2021.**

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please contact the school office.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Nairne