



Friday 3rd September

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer break. We are looking forward to the children returning to school on Monday, it will be fantastic to see them all back again.

As we prepare for the children returning, I thought it would be useful for you to have some information in one place. As always, please feel free to contact me via the school office if you would like to discuss anything further. Please remember to read the [weekly newsletter](#). It will be published after school on a Friday and will include any key events coming up as well as photographs and information about what our children have been doing during the week.

If you ever have any issues accessing emails or messages from school, please get in contact straight away so we can resolve any problems. We are committed to providing you with relevant, useful communications so please, as always, feel free to give us any feedback about how we can improve further.

### Arrangements for drop off and collection

As mentioned last term, we will be implementing **Soft Starts** and **Staggered finish times**.

Soft starts at Handsworth mean that children can arrive in class any time between **8.35 am to 8.50 am**. Teachers will take the register at 8.50 am when school will officially start.

Since we returned back to school from lockdown, 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 believe 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.

Along with this, it gives children the opportunity to settle into the class environment and have a calmer, smoother transition.

### New staggered finish times

Nursery will start at 8.30am and finish at 3.10 pm.

Reception will finish at 3.10 pm

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

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

We will still be asking parents and carers of 3FB and Year 4 to wait for their children on the other side of the gates, in the area where the play equipment was. Teachers found it was easier and safer to dismiss the children this way.

### Building works

Due to ongoing building works, we are **not able** to use the staff car park to exit the school. This means you will now need to go back out the way you came in. We appreciate the one-way





system worked well, but with the building works and the car park being used at the moment it is just not safe to walk through. Please take the most direct outside route when entering and exiting the premises. We are hoping to return to the one-way system once our building work has been completed.

### KS2 playground

The old climbing frame in the KS2 playground has been removed; unfortunately, it failed health and safety inspections. Children can still use the space to play during lunch and playtimes. We have exciting plans for new equipment and will be fundraising soon.

### Uniform

Please remember to send children into school in the correct uniform and with the correct PE kits. It is important children also have a water bottle and school jumper as classrooms will continue to be well ventilated. At Handsworth, we are committed to ensuring children wear the correct uniform. Please click on this link to see our uniform expectations: [Uniform Expectations](#).

### Equipment

Children do **not need** to bring pencil cases to school. All classes have the equipment required. We found that providing children with resources before the pandemic and not allowing pencil cases in school had a positive effect on the children and their learning; therefore we will be returning to this.

### Staffing

We are pleased to announce we now have PPA teachers who will be teaching French and Music in KS2. This means we will no longer be teaching Chess during PPA. We are working to provide Chess clubs for our children and will be in touch soon with details.

Year Group	Class Teachers	Learning Support
Nursery	Miss Walter	Ms Papademetriou Mrs Hillman Mrs Halpin
Reception	Ms O'Connor Ms Halsey	Mr Marc Mrs Brown Miss Mabika
Year 1	Mrs Lucas Miss Jordaan Mrs Kenley	Miss Whiting-Adams Mrs Brown Miss Mckillop
Year 2	Mrs Chetty Miss Woodcraft	Mrs Hussain Miss Lashley Miss Lazarus Miss Struthers Miss Challenor
Year 3	Mrs Buckley Miss Bossman	Mrs Grant Miss Hinds



Year 4	Mr Dawes Miss Nadeem	Mrs Chatterton Miss Carson Mrs Taj
Year 5	Mrs Glanvill Mr Charles	Mrs Golpe Mrs Perry Mrs Baxter Mrs Williams Mr Ingleby Mrs Gobey
Year 6	Mr Mussell Mr Tromans Ms Salpetrier	Mrs McDermott Mr Ingleby Mrs Gobey Mrs Bromley
PPA	Mrs Leftwich Mrs Giacuzzo Miss Davey Mrs Williams (French teacher) Mrs Kenley (Music teacher)	

### Parents meetings

Last year, we found the September parent meetings extremely useful. They allowed teachers to talk to parents and carers as a whole about the year ahead. These meetings will be taking place via Zoom and will be recorded, so if you are unable to attend you will be able to watch the recording.

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

### School Clubs

Before and after school clubs will be starting up again. You will receive further information soon.

### Parent consultation - early finish.

Our Parent Consultations will take place on Tuesday 9th November from 1.15 pm - 6 pm



and Wednesday 10th November from 3.45 pm to 6 pm. This means that school will **finish at 1 pm on Tuesday 9th November.**

There will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher either in person or via Zoom.

The end of Autumn term is Friday 17th December and school will finish an hour earlier than normal (2.10 pm, 2.20 pm or 2.30 pm)

You can find more dairy dates here: [Diary Dates](#). We will be adding to this page once dates have been confirmed.

### Lunches

Children will be returning to eating their lunch in the main hall. It is important you let the office know if you would like your child to change from packed lunch to school dinner or vice versa. We want to avoid unnecessary charges for you.

### Risk Assessment

[The Covid-19 Risk Assessment](#), for the return to school in September, has been updated in line with the latest Government operational guidance.

We are very excited about the year ahead and look forward to working closely with you in order to support and educate our children. Please tell them that we are looking forward to seeing them again! It is natural to feel a little anxious and worried about returning to school; believe me when I say we adults feel that way too. However, once we are all back together, the nerves will settle and the fun, laughter and learning will begin again!

As always, please get in touch if you have any questions or queries.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Nairne