

Denmead Infant & Junior Schools



28th May 2021

Dear Parents & Carers of both Denmead Infants and Juniors,

Re: From September 2021 new start and finish times

You will know that both schools are in regular liaison with each other to discuss and work on matters that are to the benefit of both schools and the Denmead community as a whole. At the heart of every major decision we make, are your children. We have all learnt a great deal during this debilitating Covid experience, much of which has actually been broadly successful, to the point where we are strongly considering adopting aspects as on-going practice. As such, our intention from September 2021, is for the Junior School to start school at 8.40a.m. (gates open from 8.30a.m.) and to finish at 3.15p.m. The Infant School will likewise start at 8.50a.m. (with classroom doors opening at 8.45a.m.) and finish at 3.05 p.m.

In this way, those parents with siblings at both schools, for which there are a great many of you, will be able to have the time to comfortably transit from one school site to the other. Beginning the school day at this time will also maximise the learning time in the mornings, which we have all learnt during our joint Covid experience, is when children find learning easiest. Many of our children have found the staggered starts a helpful way to start the school day and so a staggered start/finish model was considered. Whilst this may either remain or be reverted to as a response to Covid social distancing requirements, we feel that as a future, non-Covid model it presents too many complications that may result in unnecessary compromise.

We have discussed with Denmead Day Care who are very happy to accommodate these new timings for both schools. We have also had preliminary discussions with staff and governors, who are supportive of the schools' intention. We hope you will see the benefit of this change to your child and their learning, as well as making it easier logistically for many of you also. We recognise that it might make things potentially more complicated for those of you who might have relied upon the later finish but we hope in letting you know early and of the likelihood that you are already into a new pattern of working, that you and/or your employer will be able to make the necessary arrangements around these new times, should that be a possible issue.

If you have any concerns regarding these new times please email either Ms Clabon or Mr Clarke via the usual school communication channels and we will be happy to discuss further.

Thank you for your anticipated support.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Clabon - Denmead Infant School Head Teacher
Andy Clarke - Denmead Junior School Head Teacher