



5<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

**CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL DAY**

I am writing to inform you of the outcome of the consultation on the proposed changes to the structure of the school day at Richmond Hill. Thank you to those parents who have sent in their feedback to help with the discussions held by the Governing Body.

All members of the Governing Body have read and considered all the 16 responses received and the decision has been made that once everything returns to normal, and there are no restrictions operating, the school day will be as follows:

YEAR GROUP	START AND FINISH TIMES
Reception	8:45am – 3:05pm
Y1	8:40am – 3:00pm
Y2	8:45am – 3:05pm
Y3	8:45am – 3:05pm
Y4	8:40am – 3:00pm
Y5	8:45am – 3:05pm
Y6	8:40am – 3:00pm
Nursery	8:35am – 3:00pm Wednesdays - Beginning of the Week children's finishing time 11:35am and End of the Week children's start time 12.00noon

From the feedback we have received we thought it important to further clarify some areas brought forward as collective points raised.

**Teaching Time:**

There has been no reduction for Early Years, KS1 or KS2 in teaching time. It remains exactly the same as it was prior to covid restrictions.

**Finish Time:**

The restructuring of the finish time has been due to the reduction of time in the actual serving of lunch meals which has been reduced by 15 minutes, and also the start time in the morning which is 15 minutes earlier (see below for further information about lunch times). The current lunch time is 40 minutes but this will increase to 45 minutes in the structure from September. The school finish time is consistent with our feeder secondary schools and many schools within Doncaster. It also allows for no clash between Richmond Hill pupils leaving the site and the Ridgewood school bus dropping their pupils off near school.

**School Lunch time: School Lunch time will be 45 minutes**

Lunchtime has been totally re-structured during the current restrictions and is benefitting our children in the following ways.

- **Pupils have lunch with their friends. Reduction in waiting times due to faster meal service. Pupils will have a choice menu from September. Less pupils are on the playground areas. Dinner staff are able to set up activities and clean equipment afterwards. Reduction in incidents – safety.**

Before the current restrictions we operated family service where a table consisted of mixed year groups and lunch would be served by the older pupils to the table. This took quite a bit of time with pupils having to wait for everyone on their sitting to be served lunch and dessert at the same time and children were very often separated from their friends. This would also

affect children with a packed lunch who would also be constrained by the waiting times due to staffing supervision. From feedback from our children it was important for them to enjoy the full lunch time with their friends - eating lunch with them and playing. During the current restrictions the kitchen and dinner staff have been able to pre-prepare the lunches and dessert for whole year groups instead of mixed year groups, so our children are not sat waiting and are able to enjoy their meal chatting with their friends and then enjoying a better quality playtime. In pre-preparing lunch we are then able to offer from September a choice menu – currently all pupils have the same lunch. Pupils from September will be able to choose initially from two choices on a daily basis. You will be able, through our parentpay system, to access the menu choices available. Further details to follow. Activities by dinner staff are able to be organised prior to lunch and cleaned thoroughly after use. The children are really enjoying the extra space of staggered lunch times and activities available which will be further enhanced from September with activities provided by our Sports Coach. Year groups have been organised into playing in zoned areas with more space to play (e.g KS2 Yard - two year groups accessing rather than four year groups). This is structured as such - some year groups eat then play, others play then eat. This structure has reduced incidents noted from our medical logs pre/post covid restrictions. Therefore the impact of the restructure is enhanced quality play time and improved safety.

**Staggering school entry/exit times:**

This has helped reduce the traffic outside school making it safer for our children, including some of our Y5/Y6 children who walk to school on their own, as well as more parking availability in the local area. This means for KS1 that parents would be able to resume standing on the playground to wait to drop off and collect their children instead of the path outside school. KS2 parents would be able to leave and collect their children either at the KS2 gate or if you prefer you could go to the top of the slope just after the second gate, this would continue to be supervised by school staff.

**Hillbillies wrap around childcare and after school provision:**

To support working parents we are the only school in the area that provides our own wrap around childcare. This facility is available before school from 7:45am and after school until 5:30pm. In addition from September there will be access to after school clubs led by our Sports Instructor and other outside providers, for a minimal charge. Further information to follow. Alongside this, teaching staff will be engaging in the catch up provision outlined previously to parents.

**As restrictions remain in place until 19<sup>th</sup> July it will be communicated during the holidays if the schedule will start in September or be delayed according to the restrictions in place.**

Thank you for all your support, it is very much appreciated.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely



Debbie Secker  
Principal

*The Rose Learning Trust.*



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