

Beccles Primary Academy
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Head Teacher: Heather Thorne

Thursday 23 March 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am writing to let you know about some changes to our school day and calendar for this year.

The recent government white paper- ***Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child*** sets an expectation that all state-funded mainstream schools will deliver a minimum length of school week of 32.5 hours as soon as they can, and from September 2023 at the latest. The 32.5 hour minimum expectation includes the time in each day from the official start of the school day (i.e. morning registration) to the official end to the compulsory school day (i.e. official home time). The 32.5 hour minimum includes breaks and lunch times as well as teaching time and any extra-curricular activities that all pupils are expected to attend. It does not include optional before or after school provision.

Our school day starts at 8:50 am and ends at 3:00 pm for Early Years and Key Stage 1 and 3:05 pm for Key Stage 2. This makes our school week in Early Years and Key Stage 1 a total of 30 hours and 50 mins and in Key Stage 2, 31 hours and 15 mins. Due to this, we need to change our start and finish times to ensure that we are meeting the required length of time expected.

From the start of the summer term, we will still open our doors at **8:30** am each morning but will only have a 10 minute soft start with classroom doors and school gates closing at **8:40** am, making this the official start to the school day with morning registration at this time. Any child arriving after the registers have closed at 8:40 am will be marked as late. The school day will finish at the new time of **3:10** pm, for all children in school. This means that we will meet the expectations for the school to be open for 32.5 hours per week.

These new times will start on TUESDAY 18 APRIL 2023.

We appreciate that there will need to be a couple of weeks to settle into this routine but hope that the adjustments can be made smoothly.

The second change to school involves the admission age of children starting Nursery. Currently, we offer a place to children the term after they are 3 years old. From April 2023, we are going to offer a place, to any child wanting to start our Nursery, from the day after their 3rd birthday. This should reduce long waiting times for children who are keen to start once they are 3! Please contact the school office (01502 713281 or office@becclesacademy.org) for further information and admission forms.

Another change to the calendar is the last day of term before the summer holidays. It has been necessary to add an additional PD Day this year, so to try to keep disruption to a minimum, this will be at the end of the academic year in July. Therefore, the last day of school for all the children will be **THURSDAY 20 JULY 2023.**

Yours sincerely,



Heather Thorne (Headteacher)