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13th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will recall I wrote to you last term, consulting with you on the need to add an additional 15 minutes to the school day. In order to be compliant with new government requirements, we must ensure that children receive 32.5 hours per week and our current timings mean that we are 15 minutes short.

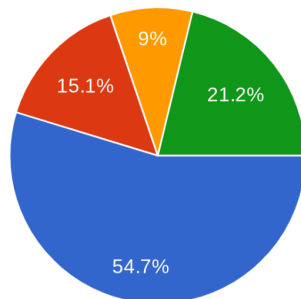
Thank you to everyone who responded to the consultation. Using the information gathered from the consultation and after a discussion with the governing board, it has been agreed that the timings of the school day will change from 9.00-3.15 (soft drop 8.40-8.50, registers closed at 9am) to:

8.45-3.15 (gates will open for soft drop between 8.30 and 8.40am, registers closed at 8.45 am)

The results of the consultation are pasted below:

Which adjustment to the timings of the school day would be the best option for you/your family/your child?

212 responses



- 8.45-3.15 (gates open for soft drop between 8.30 and 8.40am, registers closed at 8.45 am)
- 8.50-3.20 (gates open for soft drop between 8.35 and 8.45am, registers closed at 8.50am)
- 8.55-3.25 (gates open for soft drop between 8.40 and 8.50am, registers closed at 8.50am)
- 9.00-3.30 (gates open for soft drop between 8.45 and 8.55, registers closed at 9am)



As you can see there has been no change to the end of the school day but children will need to be at school 15 minutes earlier. The gates will now open at 8.30am but children **MUST** be registered by 8.45am or they will be marked as late.

These changes will come into place on 30th August 2023 - the start of the NEXT academic year.

The main reasons for these changes are as follows:

- A change to the end of the school day is too disruptive for school clubs/other childcare arrangements
- A later start will cause problems for working parents and carers
- It will be more educationally beneficial for children to have an extra 15 minutes at the start of the day, they are more alert and concentration levels are better

The governors had a long discussion about congestion - both pedestrian and traffic; and felt that Charles Darwin students are registered at 8.30am and therefore governors did not feel that this would increase congestion. Though some parents and carers felt that a later start/finish might help to ease congestion, it was felt that as so many families have children at both schools it would actually draw out the length of time that people were waiting in their cars or at the school gates.

The timings of the school day will stay as they are until the end of this academic year and we will send timely reminders during the summer term about the fact that the changes will come into effect from 30th August 2023. We hope that this gives parents and carers plenty of time to make any necessary adjustments to routines/childcare arrangements.

Yours sincerely,



Hannah Freeman
Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

