

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January

Dear Parents and Carers,

In our December newsletter, I wrote to you with news of the Department for Education statutory requirement that all state funded mainstream schools must operate a 32.5 hour week by September 2024. As mentioned in the newsletter, this means some changes for us at Dame Janet.

Our current school hours fall short of the 32.5-hour requirement, meaning we need to extend the school day. This only needs to involve small changes for us at Dame Janet Primary Academy.

We are proposing a trial period of the new hours, starting after the Easter holiday. During this period, we will operate with the suggested timings and be open to feedback. At the end of the consultation period (end of term 5), we will send a short google survey to collect your views.

CURRENT TIMES	Lower School	Upper School
Doors open	8.40am	8.40am
Registration	9.00am	9.00am
End of day	3.00pm	3.10pm

Term 5 and 6 SUGGESTED TIMES	Lower School	Upper School
Doors open	8.30am	8.35am
Registration	8.40am	8.45am
End of day	3.10pm	3.15pm

\*Shorty's Nursery remains unaffected: sessions will remain the same.

#### RATIONALE

- We have reduced the arrival time which has allowed us to shift registration to an earlier time. This has allowed us to not extend the school day unnecessarily for the children.
- We have considered that children and families who arrive by bus/public transport generally arrive at the start of our current 'door opening' time. We hope that opening 5-10 minutes earlier still allows those who travel by public transport to arrive for registration.
- The earlier registration will allow us to extend our THRIVE curriculum where we promote and support the children's social and emotional wellbeing.

#### KEY DATES

- The new hours will start on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April and run until the end of term 6 (23<sup>rd</sup> July).
- We will happily receive views and feedback during the consultation period but will also collect written views via a Google Survey at the end of term 5.

In the meantime, the school will operate at its usual opening times. I look forward to hearing your views, and hope for a smooth transition to the new hours at the start of term 5.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs G. Sherwin

*Head of School*

