



# LANGSTONE ACADEMIES

24<sup>th</sup> May, 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I would like to start with a goodbye as we see Mrs Duncan, one of our teaching assistants at the Infants, leaving today to start a new job in a Secondary School. I would personally like to thank her for her absolute commitment to the school and for the years she has given to supporting our children. We wish her the best of luck in her new adventure.

Following on from the exciting news confirming the merger, I am writing to let you know what to expect in September. The reality is that much will remain the same in the first year. We will of course have a new name and with it a new look to the signage in and around the school. We will still have two office spaces – one in Key Stage 1 (Infant) side and one on the Key Stage 2 (Junior) side. Children will still use the entrances that they use now as we want to ensure that we avoid congestion as much as possible.

During the day, children will have use of both sides of the site so on occasion your child may go to the other building and this will help them to recognise the larger community that they are now a part of. It will also mean that they have access to more equipment including the all-weather surface on the Key Stage 1 site and the adventure playground and huge field on the Key Stage 2 site. At this time, we intend to keep the key stages separate for play spending their free time in their own playgrounds.

The timings of our day as of September will involve arrival slots, meaning children can arrive during the ten minute window. For Years 1 & 2, their arrival window will run from 8:20am to 8:30am, being dropped at their classroom door in a handover to their teacher. Year 1 children will no longer queue. Children in Key Stage 2 will have the arrival window of 8:25am to 8:35am. The overlap in time accommodates those people with a child on both sides of the school with Key Stage 2 children being dropped at the gate. Sadly we will still have to ask parents to walk around the edge of the site to both entrances but a long term plan will be to look at a pathway being installed to allow parents to walk from one side to another. Children in Year R will begin their day at 8.40am and finish at 3.00pm.

The end of day for children in Key Stage 1 and 2 will again be staggered to enable parents to collect from both sides of the site. Children in Key Stage 1 will finish at 3:10pm and 3:15pm for children in Key Stage 2. You will notice that the school day is longer – this is in response to the extended October half term break. I appreciate that for so many of you, this is proving a challenge to have an additional week and that you may hold concerns regarding loss of learning. I am passionate about ensuring that this is definitely not the case. Our plan is that the lengthened day will provide time for us to dedicate to advancing your child's reading and finding time to develop their love of reading. Every day, your child will have a completely dedicated time where we will be able to listen to them read, share reading and even have planned visits to the school library when you may join them if you wish. These sessions will take place at the end of every day (Further details to follow).

Recent research from the Department for Education has been published in a document called 'The Reading Framework'. It is in the pages of this document that I reflected on the absolute importance to leading a full life was in a person's ability to access everything around them and that being able to read was fundamental to this. We all share in wanting our children to have the best life chances and I feel that this decision to devote this time to reading maximizes the lengthened school day experience.

Our Out of School Club will also be extending their day to help our working parents. They will now start at 7:30am and will finish at 5:45pm, This has been in response to parents looking for longer childcare day.

I can also confirm for you now the Inset Days that are scheduled for next academic year – I hope this helps with your planning.

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July

In the next half term, I will look to circulate more information about the next step in your child's journey through our Primary School. As ever, I appreciate your support and please do come and ask me any questions you may have.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J Bush', is positioned above a faint dotted rectangular box.

Mrs J Bush  
Headteacher