



Hamp Nursery & Infants' School
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Headteacher: Mrs. M. Weatherburn

Dear Parents/Carers

5th January 2024

Welcome back, and Happy New Year! I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas break.

Can I remind you to return **PE kits** quickly so that your children do not miss out on their PE lessons. A full list is available on the website, but this should include shorts, a t-shirt, jogging bottoms and daps (not trainers). Please be sure all items are named.

Can I also please remind you of the change to the school start time which happened in September. **Our school day (and Nursery sessions), now begins at 8.30am** and your child should be on the playground, or by their Nursery doors by this time ready to come in and start their day. Unfortunately, after the initial two or three weeks in September, this has steadily slipped back into most families arriving between 8.30 and 8.45, and I have had many conversations with parents telling me they are not late as it is not 8.45 yet. During the last two weeks in December less than 20% of children were arriving at 8.30.

The main gate will continue to be opened at 8.20 to allow you enough time to be in and on the playground ready for the 8.30 start. The teachers will come out at 8.30 to collect the children. Two members of staff per class will come out each day so one can take the line straight in whilst the other waits for latecomers or to talk to parents as necessary.

There is no need for you all to be queueing at 8.20 when the gate opens, some of you like to be early to have a natter to other parents or to be ready to drop off as soon as the teachers arrive as you are getting off to work yourselves. However, you should aim to arrive just after 8.20 so that you are on the playground before 8.30.

As soon as you are seeing other parents coming back down the driveway then you will know it is past 8.30 and your child is late for school. I apologise if this sounds harsh but even 15 minutes late each day is an hour and a quarter each week, which adds up to almost two weeks of school time missed each year. It is particularly hard for the children who regularly arrive late and miss out on the valuable social time of the day.

Of course, I appreciate that there are sometimes things beyond our control. Many of us are also parents who have children to get ready before coming to work. We understand that there may be impossible days but these should be the exception rather than the norm.

One of the concerns that has been raised is that some year groups start at 8.30 at Hamp Academy. So some parents are dropping there and then coming up to us. I have checked with Mrs Hitchings today and she confirms that for Years 3 and 5 gates are opened at 8.27, and for Years 4 and 6, their arrival times are from 8.32 am. Where you need to be in both places at the same time, and you are not yet able to leave your older child a minute or two early, one option could be to alternate weeks with bringing each child first, that way it would not always be the same child who is late for school.

I am hopeful that we will see an improvement in the punctuality of our pupils, as the only other alternative we would have to meet our statutory duty would be to extend the school day by 15 minutes.

Thank you. I will write to you separately with term dates and events.

Yours sincerely

Mary Weatherburn
Headteacher