

Barnsley Road,

Sandal,

Wakefield

WF2 6AS

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Sandal Castle (VA) Community Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs N T Russell BA Hons PGCE NPQH

[www.sandalcastleprimary.co.uk](http://www.sandalcastleprimary.co.uk)

30th April 2021

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Consultation**

We have had a number of parents email to ask if the staggered start/finish times will continue as of September due to a range of reasons, primarily around improved health, safety and safeguarding due to less parental congestion and vehicular congestion at the start and end of the school day. We have also noted many positives; calmer entry and exit due to fewer children and parents on site, KS2 staff being able to welcome children into school from their designated area which is feasible due to the increase in space available, lack of complaints from neighbours linked to parking, fewer adults on site= increased space to wait socially distanced.

We would like to consult with all parents to ask for views on the 3 options available. The staggered start and finish times will not reduce the amount of overall teaching time in school.

**Options**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Class 1 | Class 2 | Class 3 |
| Option 1 | 1 start  | 8.15 | 8.25 | 8.35 |
| 1 finish | 2.15 | 2.25 | 2.35 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Option 2 | 2.start | 8.30 | 8.40 | 8.50 |
| 2.finish | 2.30 | 2.40 | 2.50 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Option 3 | 3.start | 9.00 |  |  |
| 3.finish | 3.00 |  |  |

Please email; headteacher@sandal.wakefield.sch.uk with your preferred option,1,2or 3. Thank you.

 **COVID-19 self-test kit collection trial**

We are currently working with the Department for Health and Social Care to trial a new method of collecting self-test LFD kits as part of the testing programme. We would like to invite all households who are currently connected to the school to take part. This would allow all members of households to collect test kits for twice weekly testing via the school. If you would like to take part in the trial, test kits must be collected by an adult from the designated self-test kit distribution point at school. If you would like to take part, please call into the school reception to collect your allocation.

**Parent Consultation Phone Calls**

Parent consultation calls were scheduled to take place in March. Due to lockdown and the fact that staff have been communicating on a weekly basis with all parents, we feel that to go ahead with the calls in March would only be repeating what has been communicated already during the Spring term. Therefore, we plan to move the parent consultation dates to May. Please note the designated date for each year group. Calls will take place between 2.30pm and 5.45pm.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 4th May | Foundation Stage |
| 5th May | Year 1 |
| 10th May | Year 2 |
| 11th May | Year 3 |
| 12th May | Year 4 |
| 13th May | Year 5 |
| 17th May | Year 6 |

**Attendance expectations**

The guidance for attendance in school has been updated with the following information;

**Attendance is mandatory from 8 March 2021 and the usual rules on attendance will apply, including:**

* **parents’ duty to ensure that their child of compulsory school age attends regularly at the school where the child is a registered pupil**
* **schools’ responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence**
* **the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, in line with local authorities’ codes of conduct**

As a school, we work in partnership with the Local Authority Education Welfare Support Team and we will be adhering to the government guidance above.

**INSET days 2021/22**

We are very grateful that the Local Authority have agreed to not use school as a polling station for the elections in May 2021. However, due to school being used for the District/Police & Crime Commissioner Election Day next year, we have had to make a slight change to our INSET days for 2021/2022.

1. Monday 6th September 2021
2. Thursday 5th May 2022
3. Friday 22nd July 2022
4. Monday 25th July 2022
5. Tuesday 26th July 202

Thank you for your continued support,

Nichola Russell