



Head Teacher: Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

Aim High

Never Give Up

Follow Your Dream

Lead By Example

Monday 1st June 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

You will be aware that we have made a decision to trial a slightly shorter lunchtime over the next few weeks. I would like to share with you the rationale behind the collective decision to reduce the length of lunchtimes to reflect upon whether this would benefit our children through an improved lunchtime experience. This trial will have no impact on the start time or end of school day. This is not a decision that has been taken lightly, however through discussion with staff and the Governing Body it is a change that we have chosen to implement on a trial period.

Through this trial period there will be a significant level of monitoring of lunchtimes and evaluation of the changes, positive or negative, that it has brought about. The school leadership team and Governors will all be involved in reflecting upon the impact of the changes and make a decision on next steps.

As a result of this trial we hope to eliminate a number of issues that have been identified, however if this trial should prove to have a detrimental impact on the social development and enjoyment then we will reconsider other ways in which to continue to strive to improve our provision.

Through the shortening of lunchtimes by 10 minutes from 55 to 45 minutes we hope to achieve the following:

- A reduction of the number of children on the playground throughout the staggered lunches. This should ease the number of first aid incidents due to children have a better quality play space. Mrs Cockerill has carried out a baseline survey with the children and their biggest negative was lack of space to play. This approach will enable more play space and a greater range of equipment and resources to be in use throughout the lunchtimes. Mrs Cockerill and Miss Odain will work with the school council regarding the kind of toys, equipment and games each school phase would like to have made available to them.
- A few years ago we staggered playtimes due to the constraints of playground space and our children fed back positively about how the changes had significantly improved their enjoyment at playtimes. This is what we are aiming to recreate at lunchtimes.
- Recruitment of lunch time staff is a challenge to all schools and as Norwood School is committed to a high quality of adult: child ratio, this change would support ensuring our ethos is met.
- The provision of sports leader is one that we have had in place for over a year now and children are very positive about these sessions. These are run by Mr Johnson who is a qualified sports coach and the children have opportunities to receive coaching and play in friendlies or organised 'matches'. Through shortening and staggering lunchtimes, all classes will have more access to this provision which includes basketball, tennis, badminton, bench ball, cricket etc.
- The MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) is also a popular provision with the children and as above, these trial changes should see children having more access to facility across the week.
- Planning should enable a reduction in children having a short play time before being called for lunch and then a short time afterwards. Our aim is that the changes should ensure that children have a good length of playtime to engage in the range of provision available.
- Children still have a range of opportunities to work, learn and play alongside children from other year groups through our family and house system, therefore not losing out developing social skills with older/younger friends.

- A slight lengthening of the school day will support the new and more challenging curriculum implemented by the government from September 2014, however should it be necessary for children, particularly KS1 and EYFS children (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) to have an afternoon break, this will be actively encouraged by all involved.

Year Group	Old Time	New Time
Reception	11.45 – 12.40	11.45 – 12.30
Year 1	12.00 – 12.55	12.15 – 1.00
Year 2	12.00 – 12.55	12.15 – 1.00
Year 3	12.30 – 1.25	12.15 – 1.00
Year 4	12.30 – 1.25	12.45 – 1.30
Year 5	12.30 – 1.25	12.45 – 1.30
Year 6	12.30 – 1.25	12.45 – 1.30

Should these changes have the desired positive impact on lunchtimes we will ensure that as always, our Year 6 buddies support our new Reception intake with their lunchtimes in the Autumn Term.

I do hope that this has answered any questions you may have and helped to reassure you that the trial is with a vision to improving social time for all of our children at Norwood.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the school office in person, by telephone **01733 574717**, or via email at office@norwood.peterborough.sch.uk,

Thank you for your ongoing support in working in partnership with Norwood School.

Yours faithfully

Mrs D Reynolds
Head Teacher

