Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to say a big thank you to everyone who shared their feedback during the consultation last week, looking in to the possibility of changing the times of the day at Maidensbridge, in response to the protective measure for COVID-19.

It is extremely important to me to ensure Maidensbridge is representing its community well and making the best decisions for our children, which is slightly more challenging when I have met very few of you.

In considering all responses, as well as a staff consultation and discussions with governors, I feel I can implement an effective timetable, which ensures consistent, quality teaching as well as taking in to account working parents and the safety measures needed for COVID-19.

Therefore, the below table shows the timings of the day for each year group from Monday to Friday.

I am continuing with the elements of the consultation that were supported by the majority of parents, which is the PPA for teachers on a Friday afternoon, to ensure consistency of teaching for the remainder of the week and to ensure collaboration amongst the staff. Particularly as the staff have to spend the rest of the week in their own bubbles and avoiding contact with other staff in school, following the government guidance.

Friday afternoon will now be an ‘**enrichment curriculum’** for all of the children; delivered by our HLTAs, L3 TAs and myself and Mr Nolan will also have a class each. This will allow us to address well-being, team-working and develop skills that are not always prioritised in the curriculum.

This will also address the main concern from parents which was length of time in school club and the additional cost to families.

I know many parents were concerned about the staggered start and end to the day but I am afraid this is government guidance in order to reduce transmission of COVID-19 and to keep our community safe and all schools will be doing this. However, we do understand the difficulty with multiple drop offs for a family, so we have implemented a system where you can drop your children off and pick them up at your youngest child’s door and time, if this is an issue for you.

Some parents were also concerned about the shortening of breaks and lunchtime and the socialisation aspect. I understand your concern, but I am afraid while we are fighting COVID-19 their breaks are restricted to one area of school and the children in their own bubble so they are not as they were before. To combat this, we have introduced on to the timetable, a daily PSHE lesson and a 15 minute mindfulness/wellbeing/fitness time which will cater for skills that may be lost due to staggered lunches and breaks at the moment.

We will still be offering breakfast and after school club for the week and we appreciate the estimated numbers from parents. This system will have to be tweaked slightly in order to adhere to the protective measures of small consistent bubbles, but we hope to be able to offer this to all who need it. Details will follow.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year Group** | **Start and finish time** | **Entrance and Exit** |
| R | 8.45am-3.15pm | Reception Playground via Main Office pathway |
| 1 | 8.55am-3.25pm | Year 1 Playground via Main Office pathway  |
| 2 | 8.35am-3.05pm | Hall Entrance via Beachcroft Road driveway |
| 3 | 8.45am-3.15pm | Hall Entrance via Beachcroft Road driveway |
| 4 | 8.55am-3.25pm | Maidensbridge Road Entrance |
| 5 | 8.45am-3.15pm | Maidensbridge Road Entrance |
| 6 | 8.35am-3.05pm | Maidensbridge Road Entrance |

I hope that you will see from this that the consultation was genuinely to find out the community’s views and to find out the issues that parents would have, and I have listened.

I would encourage parents in future to ensure they contact school directly if they would like any clarification or discussion about school policy and procedure rather than acting on information from other parents. There were some very mixed messages and inaccurate information that came from Whatsapp groups that caused many parents more anxiety than was needed last week.

I am happy to communicate with parents through the correct procedures of an email via the info@maidens.dudley.sch.uk or if parents would like to call the office and ask for a returned phone call or appointment with the relevant member of staff.

Thank you again for your feedback, together we have implemented a plan that will be of great benefit to our children’s learning and their safety and well-being.

We look forward to welcoming the children from years 1-6 back in to school on Thursday 3rd September in their school uniform and our Reception starters will begin their transition in the week beginning 7th September.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs K Thomas

Headteacher

Mrs C Quinton

Chair of Governors