



Bernards Heath Junior School

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Friday 22nd September 2023

Parent Update: School day FAQ

Dear Junior School Parents and Carers,

Many thanks for your understanding while we have been navigating the changes to the school day. The Infants sent out the letter below to help explain the reasoning to the changes in our school day this year. For those parents without pupils in the Infant school, you may be unaware of why the Juniors have had to alter the school day. In summary, due to changes in the core minimum hours required in schools, we were facing the problem that potentially both the Infant and Junior schools would be opening and closing at the same time. The below sets our reasoning to the changes.

What has changed?

The length of the Infant school day has changed. It has increased from 6.25 hours to 6.5 hours. Prior to any changes, the Junior School day 'wrapped around' the Infant School day - 8.40am (gates opened and playground staffed) to 3.20pm. The Infant school day was 8.55am – 3.10pm (our classroom doors opened at 8:50am).

From September 2023, both school days are the same length. To ensure all children can be collected on time, it is necessary for the Infant school children to be either dropped off before their older siblings or picked up after them. We have opted for Infant children to be dropped off first **and** collected first.

Why has this changed?

In March 2022, the Government set out the legal expectation of a 32.5 hour minimum core school week by September 2023. In July 2023, the deadline to meet this expectation was deferred to September 2024 at the latest, however the Infant school had already agreed the September 2023 deadline was manageable and shared this on tours for new parents.

Can the Juniors still open at the same time as last year?

At this time, our timetables have been adjusted so that both Infant and Junior schools are aligned to support with drop offs and pick ups. One question that has been asked by some parents has been, "can we still open at 8:40am?" As our school day has shifted 5 minutes, we have also had to shift teachers directed time to come in line with the new times, therefore we cannot open earlier, as pupils will not be supervised until 8:45am.

What is the final outcome?

Plan for Monday 11th September onwards.

Time	What is happening?	Notes
8.40am	Infant School gates open	Children must be accompanied to the playground by parents/Carers
8.40am	Infant School classroom doors are open	Parents/Carers are asked to say goodbye to their Y1 and Y2 child at the Upper Culver Rd Gate. FS children to be taken to their classroom doors. School equipment not for use at this time.
8.45am	Infant School day begins	
8.45am	Junior School gate is open	Parents/Carers can walk children to the playground or say goodbye at the gate. Children will be supervised by a member of the Junior School staff.
8.50am	Infant children should be signed in at the office after this time and will be marked as late.	This will be effective from Monday 18 th September.
8.55am	Junior School day starts	
9.00am	Junior children should be signed in at the office after this time and will be marked as late.	
3.15pm	Infant School day ends	Parents/Carers collect from the classroom door This applies to all classes including Mitchell and Spencer Classes.
3.25pm	Junior School day ends	Parents/Carers collect from the playground or meet their child at the gate.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Rimmer and Mr Armoogum.

Head teachers at Bernards Heath Infant and Nursery and Junior Schools.