

Heaton Park Primary and Nursery School

Cuckoo Lane
Whitefield
Manchester
M45 6TE

T: 0161 773 9554

E: heatonpark@bury.gov.uk



Temporary Changes to the School Day

Dear Parents/Carers

First of all I would like to thank you all for your continued support and understanding through these extremely difficult times. The pandemic continues to affect the lives of everyone and we as a school community have felt its effect in no uncertain terms since our return from the half term break. Since the start of the new school year and the full re-opening of schools, we have put significant measures in place; many of these are over and above government guidance on the prevention and spread of C19.

Recent events have highlighted the near impossibility of preventing the spread of C19. We have constantly sought to refine our practice to try and make our systems even tighter and on the back of our recent full school closure, the need for this has become even more apparent.

Under government guidelines, schools are permitted to utilise teaching and learning systems that may necessitate the crossing of bubbles by some adults. Under normal circumstances school could not offer such a broad curriculum without these systems. Recently however, it has become apparent that we need to try and reduce this crossing as much as we can, whilst acknowledging that it would be impossible to do this at *all* times. One area where we can reduce this crossing of bubbles is in the area of class cover and when teachers are taking their preparation and planning time (PPA is a statutory entitlement for all class teachers). Normally another teacher or teaching assistant would take a class while the class teacher has this time. At present this is carried out by members of staff who may provide PPA cover across several year groups.

Because of this the school governors have taken the difficult decision to introduce a change to the school day, which will mean that we will now **close early on Fridays**. Teachers will take their PPA at this time and remove the need for members of staff to cross bubbles. This will also mean that as a rule classes will be taught just by their own teachers. This is a temporary measure and it is not a solution we would ordinarily choose, but we feel we must endeavour to try everything possible to prevent any further closures.

From Friday 27th November school will close at the following times:

- **EYFS – 1.10pm**
- **KS1 – 1.15pm**
- **LKS2- 1.20pm (Years 3 and 4)**
- **UKS2 – 1.30pm (Years 5 and 6)**

Early closure is on **Fridays only** and finishing times on other days will remain as they are.

Head Teacher **Mr P Lord**

Children will still have lunch at school before they leave

Seesaw work will be set that can be completed at home on Friday afternoons.

At present our After School Club will continue to be open to those families who currently send their children to it.

Other after school activities such as football, netball and gym club will also unfortunately have to close until the spring.

Early closing will be reviewed on a regular basis and throughout the current crisis.

We do fully understand that this may cause issues for some of you but I do hope you will appreciate that these decisions are taken with a very heart and we all look forward to the day that we can get our school back to how we want it to be.

Kind Regards as Always

Mr P. J. Lord