

# High View Primary School

## *Opportunities to Thrive*



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9<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share with you an important change the Governing Board is proposing to the structure of the school day at High View.

As many of you will remember, during the Covid-19 pandemic we extended the school day in order to manage staggered starts, enhanced cleaning, and the additional demands that the situation placed upon us. At the time, this was the right decision for children, families, and staff. We took advantage of this position by extending the working hours of a significant number of staff members in order to manage the extended working day. However, these extended arrangements have remained in place, and over time they have created additional financial pressures on the school.

With very tight budgets and rising costs, we have now reached the point where continuing with a longer school day is no longer financially sustainable. In line with our responsibility to balance the school budget and protect the quality of education we provide, the Governing Body is proposing to shorten the school day by 10 minutes from Monday 5th January 2026.

### **The Proposal**

**No changes are proposed for the Nursery and Reception start times.** For Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils, the Governing Board is proposing that the school gates will open at 8:45am and close at 8:55am - this means the KS1 and 2 school gates will open 10 minutes later than the current opening time. This small change brings our school day into line with the Department for Education's non-statutory requirement of 32.5 hours per week. In fact, our week will continue to exceed this minimum, at 32.9 hours.

The later opening will result in:

- **No reduction in children's learning** – The amount of curriculum time your child receives will remain the same. Lessons, morning interventions, and enrichment opportunities will continue as they are now.
- **No impact on the breadth of our offer** – Your child will still access the full range of subjects, activities and provision that makes High View special.



- **Protecting staff and children** – These changes allow us to reduce staffing hours without making redundancies, protecting jobs and ensuring that your child continues to learn with the same adults they know and trust.
- **Continued adult support** - There will be no changes to the support provided to children from teaching assistants throughout the school day.

We fully appreciate that any change to school hours has an impact on families. That is why the Governing Board has chosen to begin consultation at this early stage, giving more than half a term's notice before the change is proposed to take effect. This will give families time to plan ahead and, where necessary, make arrangements around the new start time.

### **Consultation Period**

We are also consulting closely with staff and unions, as the change involves an adjustment to staff working hours. Taking this approach ensures that we can manage the financial situation responsibly, while continuing to safeguard the provision we offer children and avoiding the need for redundancies.

We also understand that many families rely on wraparound care. Orchard, our external provider, currently runs morning provision from 7:15am until 8:35am. To support the proposed later school start, Orchard has agreed to extend their service by an additional 10 minutes each day so that care is provided up until 8:45am. **Orchard will not charge families any additional costs to accommodate the longer morning sessions.**

Our aim is to be open, transparent, and fair throughout this process. Thank you for your understanding and continued support. By making this necessary adjustment, we can better stabilise the school's financial position while keeping our focus firmly on what matters most – providing your children with an excellent education in a safe, happy, and nurturing environment.

Many thanks,

Mr R Claxton  
Headteacher