



SCHOOL DAY

Fir Ends School, Smithfield, Carlisle, Cumbria CA6 6AY
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Be the best you can be...

CHANGES TO STAGGERED SCHOOL DAYS

Since the start of this school year, we have had a staggered school day, in line with general guidance on limiting the spread of Covid-19. Early Years and KS1 finish at 15:15, with KS2 leaving at 15:25.

In light of the ongoing removal of covid restrictions and guidance, there is now less of a need for staggered ends to the school day. Whilst there remain some traffic calming benefits, the ten-minute gap is slightly longer than it needs to be for this purpose alone.

After Easter, we will *either* return to Reception, KS1 and KS2 ending at the same time, *or* keep a slight offset between infants and juniors to assist with parking management.

From *next week* (Monday 28th March), we will bring the Reception/KS1 and KS2 end times closer together again, initially aiming to maintain the traffic benefits. This will involve infant end times being moved back five minutes to 15:20, whilst juniors will remain at 15:25.

Families who have Reception/KS1 **and** KS2 pupils should collect **all** of their children at the later time of 15:25. They will be released from the EYFS yard together.

I would appreciate feedback from parents who collect by car during next week, to determine what your experiences of parking and departing are.

If there seems to be no real traffic benefit to that five minute offset, we will simply move both Key Stages back to a traditional 15:25 finish after Easter; if it seems sensible to keep a five-minute buffer we will stick with that.

NURSERY PUPILS

Standard nursery sessions run to 15:00 and we recognise this can create a slightly awkward collection time offset for some families who have older siblings to collect too.

Nursery families who have older siblings to collect too are welcome to **either** collect their nursery child at 15:00 and return for the older siblings, **or** to simply collect **all** siblings between 15:20-15:30. This will involve adding an additional 30 minutes onto the nursery day which can be funded either through FEF hours or, if these are already fully allocated to nursery sessions during the week, charged as additional time at £2 per day.

Regards,

Daryl Spencer

Headteacher

LANERCOST CROSS COUNTRY

We are pleased to be expecting a good turnout from pupils in EYFS to Year 6 tomorrow, which should give us a chance of bringing at least one of the trophies back to Fir Ends!

A handful of our school staff will be onsite, and should be fairly visible around the start/finish line. We will bring our Fir Ends running bibs with us to make it easier to spot our runners in the pack!

A reminder of event details follows:

The event is open to any child in EYFS, KS1 and KS2 who would like to compete.

School staff will be onsite to assist with managing the event, but general supervision and transport rests with parents.

Parents should bring their children to the gate next to the start line, but will not be able to come past this gate. School staff will accompany the children to the start line and wait for the children at the finish line. Parents should collect children from staff at the finish area.

Dogs should be on leads and kept under close control at all times.

The first cross country race will start at 10.30 am prompt in the field adjacent to Lanercost Cricket Club.

- Race Yr R/1/2 – 10.30 am
- Race Yr 3/4 - to follow on
- Race Yr 5/6 - to follow on

Medals will be awarded to the first three boys and girls in each race. There will also be a team shield for the fastest **four** runners (2 boys and 2 girls) per school per race.

Presentation of medals and shields, barbecue refreshments and toilet facilities will be in the Cricket Club.

Cars should be parked either in the Lanercost School or Lanercost Tea Room car parks or the Priory Garth. Please ensure that no entrances for local residents are blocked.