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**HEADTEACHER: MRS. JOANNA ATHERTON**

24<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

We have been made aware of feedback which has been circulating regarding the proposed changes to the organisation of the school day which were mentioned in our end of term newsletter on Friday.

We thought it would be helpful to explain some of the reasons behind these changes and provide more information so you can support these changes when we return to school in September.

The arrangements relating to afternoon playtimes for our younger children in Key Stage One are to allow for a more flexible approach to learning. Children in these classes will still have daily breaks from their learning in their own outdoor spaces in the afternoons but these will be timed to meet the needs of the children and their individual class learning activities rather than being a set playtime across the whole of Key Stage One. Teachers will accompany their classes during the breaks from their learning to support their play.

For our children in Key Stage Two there will not be a set playtime in the afternoon from September. This is in line with a large number of primary schools and will enable children's learning experiences in the afternoon to have a greater time allocated to them. Where teachers feel that their class need a break in the afternoon, this will be accommodated, particularly for our children who have just moved into Key Stage Two.

Where we are aware that individual children have particular requirements away from the formal learning environment, these will be worked in to their school day accordingly, but if you feel you want to discuss a specific issue relating to your child, please contact us to discuss this further at the start of the September term.

All children will still have the opportunity for outside play at morning play and lunchtime (weather permitting).

The Reception class will have continuous access to their outside learning space with snacks available throughout the day. They will also have opportunities to join the rest of the school on the playground/field.

Snacks will be provided for children from Reception to Year Two. All other children are encouraged to bring their own healthy snack into school daily.

We are working hard to become an accredited 'Healthy School' which will be supported through our new Personal Health and Social Education (PSHE) scheme - Jigsaw. As recognised in the School Food Standards, which all schools in England must follow, a great school food culture improves children's health and academic performance.

The School Food Standards encourage schools to:

- have healthy snacks such as seeds, vegetables and fruit
- avoid confectionery, chocolate or chocolate-coated items

During school trips, treat days and other school events, sweets and chocolate will still be allowed but we are moving to a position where daily snacks are a healthy choice.

Please be assured that the learning experiences, wellbeing and educational achievement of the children are always at the heart of all decisions made to improve the experiences at Walmsley C of E Primary and we rely on your support to implement these changes.

We will closely monitor how the improved arrangements are working during the first half term of the new school year and consider adjustments as necessary.

As always, if you would like to discuss this further, please make contact in the usual way.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Joanna Atherton  
Headteacher

Mr Russell Dyson  
Chair of Governors

