



Ref: NCS/ssd
Tuesday, 10 May 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

Re: Timings of the School Days - September 2022

I hope this letter finds you all well. As you will have probably seen in the news recently, The Department for Education have produced a paper called, "Opportunity for all - Strong schools with great teachers for your child" in which they have outlined how they plan to address the educational and emotional impact of the pandemic, particularly for more disadvantaged and vulnerable children.

One key aspect of this is to introduce a minimum expectation of 32.5 hours in a school week in order to provide, "A richer, longer average school week which makes the most effective use of time in school and ensures children enjoy a rounded education".

Currently at The Sittingbourne School we are 50 minutes a week short of this expectation. Therefore, in order to meet the minimum expectation and to help address the impact of the pandemic, we will be increasing the length of the school day by 10 minutes a day. From September, lessons will start at 8.35am and finish at 3.05pm.

By splitting the ten minutes in half and adding just five minutes to both the morning and afternoon, we hope to minimise any disruption to families' morning and afternoon routines.

Whilst I appreciate that this will mean changes to some of your morning and afternoon routines, I hope you share my excitement about the opportunities this will provide our students' learning over the years.

Kind regards

Mr N Smith
Headteacher