

Dear Parents/carers

Introducing Maeve:

Maeve was born on 8th April 2021 (2 weeks early)

6lb 11oz

Mum and daughter are both well and enjoying their time together. No doubt, we'll get a school visit when the time is right.

Gate Timing – End of Day

For the past year, all of our systems have been focused on providing a high-quality curriculum during the pandemic whilst ensuring strict health and safety protocols minimise the risk of contamination.



One of the ways we have managed this, as you are aware, has been to extend the entrance and exit times for children and parents at the beginning and end of each day. Whilst this has worked incredibly well for our families, it has meant that staff are left with no time for many of the 'behind the scenes' activities, such as lesson preparation, marking, planning. These activities have been taking place in the evenings and at weekends and will continue to do so until we return to normal timings at some point in the future.

One of the activities that has suffered most is staff access to training and development and also to facilitating staff meetings. We have reached a point where we need to get back to moving the school forward, so that we can realise our vision for providing the rich, deep and inspirational curriculum your children deserve.

With that in mind, **starting next Tuesday, (4th May) we are bringing forward the latest collection time from 3:45pm to 3:30pm.**

Everything else is staying the same.

This still means there is a full 30 minute period to collect Y1-Y2 children (3:00 – 3:30) and 15 minutes for Juniors (3:15 – 3:30). Early years and nursery are unaffected.

Observations made over this last week or so have shown that the vast majority of families will not be affected by this; almost all children are picked up and gone by the time anyway. After 3:30 there are typically just 2 or 3 children waiting to be collected in each phase group. We recognise that the few families who *are* affected will need to come and collect a little sooner than they have been doing. *It does not mean that we need hundreds of parents suddenly arriving at 3pm – stick to your normal time unless you typically collect after 3:30.*

Over the coming months, we are hoping that schools will be included in the lifting of some restrictions; currently, we are still operating in the same way and with the same limitations put in place in September and through the last lockdown, with no mixing of bubbles, children sitting in rows, etc. We are desperate to get back to 'normal', but for the time being we need to remember that the pandemic is not over. There are significant concerns about what we are seeing in India, with new variants popping up all the time. Therefore, it is crucial that we continue to observe the safety protocols, wearing masks, not mixing bubbles by playing on the park after school, socially distancing, regular hand washing, etc. until we know it is *done*. When that happens, we'll throw one heck of a party and you're all invited!

Parent/Teacher Discussions

We still can't run parents' evenings. Class teachers will contact you on Dojo over the coming days to arrange time for a conversation with you via phone, zoom, etc. about your child's learning.

Community page on School Website

As part of our new website development, we are creating a page that focuses on [community events, activities and services](#).

If you are looking for a childminder, football coaching, or something to do over the bank holiday weekend, we are hoping to be able to advertise them on our 'community' page.

We are currently accepting adverts for the following services/activities:

- Professional services offered by parents of children at our school, e.g. registered childminding, plumbing, hairdressing, therapies, etc. (For now, just our parents)
- Activities for children and/or families, e.g. football coaching, dance classes, etc.
- Community events.

Currently, we're offering this service for free whilst we see what kind of take-up we get and find out if we can manage it without it taking staff time away from our normal work.

There was a tremendous growth in community spirit over the last 12 months and we don't want to lose that. We feel this could be one way of supporting our local enterprises whilst also offering our families a place to go to when searching for things to do or local services they may need.

Email and adverts to office@peafieldlaneacademy.co.uk

Please add "LOCALADVERT" at the beginning of the subject line.

Finally – we're new to this, bear with us. It might be great – it might not work, but we'll give it a go and see where we get.

Gary Walker

Headteacher