

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to share an important update about some upcoming changes to the structure of the school day.

At Dunsford Community Academy we are always looking for ways to create the best possible environment for learning, wellbeing and family life. Over recent months we have been listening carefully to feedback and reviewing what works best for children, parents and staff.

As a result, we will be making a small but meaningful adjustment to the timings of the school day. However, first and foremost, I want to reassure you that this change will not reduce the amount of learning time your child receives. The curriculum offer and the quality of teaching and learning will remain exactly the same.

From 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026, which is the first day of the Summer Term, the school day will run as follows:

Early Bird Breakfast Club: 7.30am to 8:00am

Free Breakfast Club: 8:00am to 8:30am

School gates open: 8:30am

Gates close and registration: 8:40am

Whole school assembly: 8:45am

Learning starts: 9:00am

Lunch time: 12:00pm to 12:45pm

School day finishes: 3:00pm

Since starting as headteacher, it has become clear to me that both children and staff have been spending longer hours in school than is typical in other local settings. The new structure will bring us in line with neighbouring schools and will ensure we work within the directed time framework for staff. I know you will understand how important it is that our team has time for training, preparation and professional development, all of which support the high-quality education your children receive.

I also understand that a change to the end of the school day may create challenges for some families. To support you, we are putting a number of arrangements in place:



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**FLOURISHING FUTURES**

- Summer Term 2026: A free after-school club will run until 4:00pm. This will give families time to adjust to the earlier finish and allow us to understand the level of ongoing need. This can be booked for all children that need this provision.
- From September 2026: The school day will continue to finish at 3:00pm. A regular paid for after-school club will be available for those who require extended care.
- Additional clubs around focus activities will be available for all children to access across the year that will finish at 4.00pm.

We are here to help and want to make this transition as smooth as possible for every family. If you have any further questions or concerns about this, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Open mornings will take place on the Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 9.00am and Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 9.00am as an opportunity to discuss these changes.

Thank you, as ever, for your support.

Best wishes,



Liam O'Sullivan

Headteacher

Dunsford Community Academy