

Dear Parents,

This academic year has seen a significant change in the way that King Solomon Academy operates. We have merged with Ark Paddington Green and many of our families have been adjusting to a new set up, which has been put in place to ensure the best long term education in place for our pupils. In classrooms, the school year has started extremely well and we are excited by the learning we see day in day out across both sites.

Following the first two weeks of the school year, the school has received feedback from parents about the impact of these changes. We know all change is disruptive. We are committed to working with parents to ensure that the way the school runs is as the best it can be.

I am writing to parents to provide an update on the issue of the start and end of the school day. In light of feedback we have received, particularly from parents with pupils at both OYS and YYS, we will be **making the following changes from Monday 23rd September.**

- The Older Years Site gate will **open at 8.05am**, giving our families with pupils at both sites more flexibility about drop off.
- On Monday afternoons, we will set up a Year 5 and 6 list of pupils with siblings on Younger Years Site, allowing those pupils to be supervise **until 3.15pm on a Monday**, allowing parents more time to come over from the Younger Years Site.
- At pick up at YYS, pupils will not move to the late room **until 3.40pm**, allowing parents a longer window to pick up their children.
- Pupils arriving late at YYS will for the rest of this week (as is the case this week) to not receive any consequence for being late whilst they adjust and get into routines
- Breakfast club at OYS will be extended to allow Secondary (Years 7-11) pupils to also sign up, so that families with Secondary and YYS pupils have more flexibility.

In addition:

- After months of discussion with Westminster, we are getting closer to the installation of a safer street design on Crompton Street outside the YYS. Westminster Road Safety have secured funding and planning is in place for the end of Crompton Street to become a **School Street** meaning cars would not be allowed here at drop off and pick up. This is likely to happen in 3-6 months as a maximum. This will mean that the entry to school is safer. We also want to ask parents for their help at drop off and pick up – this will be discussed at Parent Council.

If you would like to encourage them to implement this as soon as possible please write to Westminsterstp@mpsmartertravel.co.uk making clear that - It is important to you that there is a safe entrance on Crompton Street

- If cars were not allowed onto the end of Crompton Street at drop off an pick up it will make it safer
- We have asked that Westminster provide parking wardens on a daily basis to ensure that no cars are parking on the pavements from Monday 23rd – this has been agreed.
- There are plans in place for the ramp to improved to make it wider to allow quicker access within the building works – whilst we know this will not be built for several

months we are committed to improving the ramp and are working hard to get the programme agreed for this.

- The school is in discussion with the building project on Hall Place to ensure no trucks are in this area at pick up and drop off, if necessary, pursuing this being enforced formally
- We are aware that some parents have raised the question of changing the school timings. We are keen to consult parents about any further changes, but know that changes to the timings of the school day have significant consequences for the education we provide and, of course for parents arrangements- as such changes will be thought through carefully and announced well before they come in effect.

Over the next three weeks we will have Home Learning Workshops for all Younger Years Parents. This will be a chance to find out about the school year for your child, and also about being part of the **Parent Council**, which will meet for the first time this year in the **week of the 14th October**. At this meeting the start and end of the school day will be the main topic. The time and day of the meeting will be decided once parents have stated their preferences when they sign up to the Parent Council.

I know these teething issues have caused some frustration. I would ask that parents meet with senior leaders and talk through concerns, or email so that we can **work together** to address them properly. I am grateful to parents who have taken the time to talk through, or share by email their concerns, so that we can make the school work brilliantly for parents.

Yours,

Mr Haimendorf
Principal

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parents@kingsolomonacademy.org