

# Changes to our School

## Why?

Like all schools nationally we have been facing significant cuts to our funding. We have encouraged you to raise this issue with your MP. This year the cuts to Underhill have forced us to consider more radical solutions. In simple terms the school is £250,000 short of the funds required to run the school in the same way. Therefore we have to change how we operate as a school by September 2019. We are doing everything we can to ensure that any changes do not negatively impact our children's learning and well-being.

## What are we proposing to change?

### Lunch times

Children will have a 15 minute lunch with their class teacher to eat together and develop their social skills and table manners.

The children will then have a 30 minute 'playtime' supervised by school staff.

### Morning break

We will not be having a break time in the morning. Children will have exercise, fresh air, water and snacks but this will be planned into the morning sessions.

### The School day

The children will be learning through enrichment activities from 2:30pm until the end of the school day. These learning activities will be led by teachers and teaching assistants. This will mean that families will be able to pick their child up at 2:30pm if they wish because the compulsory teaching/learning day will have been completed by this time. Families will have to inform us if they want to take their children at 2:30pm so that the school can plan these sessions appropriately.

### **The 2 year old Nursery setting will close**

The school is proposing that our Nursery will be for 3 and 4 year olds and that we will stop accepting applications from 2 year olds. We will keep all of our existing 2 year olds because they all become 3 before 2020.

### **We will not be providing Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club for Nursery children.**

The School cannot afford to effectively staff this provision from September 2019.

### **We will have 2 classes in Year 2 and Year 5 next year**

Our pupil numbers are low in Year 1 and Year 4 at the moment and there is no indication that they are going to increase. This means that as children leave these classes we have decided not to replace them. In September the children will be in two classes in these year groups. We think that the class size will be at 30 very soon (as families leave).

### **A reduction in the swimming provision**

We will be teaching swimming on 3 days, instead of 5 days a week.

## **How will this save money?**

### **The change to the school day**

All Teachers are entitled to PPA (Preparation, Planning and Assessment) time. We currently provide this release time using a team of 'non-class based' teachers. The changes to the timings of the day mean that there will be less 'non- class based teachers'.

### **Lunch time**

The changes to the Lunch time mean that we will lose a number of Meal Time Supervisors (MTS).

### **The closure of the 2 yr old Nursery setting**

This means a large cut in the number of Teaching Assistants and the loss of one Class teacher.

### **Two classes in Year 2 and Year 5**

This means that we will have fewer Teachers and TAs in these Year Groups.

## Details

The Governing Body are very aware that these changes will cause disruption to some of our families. They have been consulting staff on the changes because the proposal means that some of them will lose their jobs. The changes that have been proposed means that the school will be able to balance the budget in 2020, although this will still be very challenging.

The school want to work with you to ensure that Underhill continues to succeed despite the financial challenge that it faces. We would like to invite you all to the school on Tuesday 18th June for one of three sessions to hear more about this proposal and what it means for you. Please indicate below which of the sessions you would like to attend.

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### Parent/Carer consultation meeting

Please click on this link <http://tiny.cc/w0o97y> to let us know which meeting you would like to attend. If you have any issues please indicate your preferred time below and then print and return this slip to the school office.

I/we would like to attend the meeting on Tuesday 18th June at:

9.00 am

2.30 pm

8.00 pm

Parent's name:

Child's name:

Class: