

Dear Parents/carers,

We cannot believe that we are at the end of our second year; we hope you have enjoyed being part of our school community. My team and I would like to thank you for your continued enthusiasm, commitment and promotion of our school. Because of this, we have a full complement of staff, full classes and a school that is increasingly contributing to the local and National educational landscape.

In this, my final letter to you this year, I write to inform you of changes that we will make from September.

Extending the School Day

There was a very strong sense from the parent body that extending the school day would be a good development. 84% indicated their support. There was less certainty about extending the morning or afternoon; with about 54% supporting extending the morning. After much discussion with my team, and supported by the Governing Body, we formally give notice that the school day will now start at 8.30am and finish at 3.15pm.

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| <p>Reception Children: 8.30am: Gates open 8.30am-8.45am: Soft Start 8.45am: Registers taken and parents leave 3.15pm: School ends and parents collect children.</p> | <p>Years 1,2,3,4 8.20am: Gates open 8.30am: School starts. Doors will be locked as soon as children in class. Children who are late should be brought to main office. 3.15pm: School ends and parents collect children.</p> |
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This change means that we can include: daily music, daily meditation, daily art, daily handwriting, daily energiser (including the daily mile). It will make the day less rushed.

No shoes

You may have seen the emerging research that suggested that children who do not wear shoes in school do better.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2016/05/23/schoolchildren-with-no-shoes-on-do-better-and-behave-better-in-t/>

We have decided that children will not wear outdoor shoes when inside. The uniform will still require children to wear black shoes to and from school. Inside their classrooms, children should wear plimsolls or simple, plain slippers (no rabbits or big bulky slippers) or socks. We think this will develop our learning environment and will also save on costs of carpet cleaning.

Free School Funding

You will have noticed in the recent press that the current government has announced extra funding for schools <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-40634472>. Thank you for taking an interest in the issues. However, a number of parents were confused that the announcement included reduction in Free school funding; this refers to possible new Free schools and how they are funded and not currently open and functioning schools, like ours. So, business as usual at UCPS!

Holidays and attendance

Congratulations! Our Attendance is 96.6% which is good. We would love to achieve over 97%. There is now a simpler process to apply for leave of absence, though I ask that you take note of our Attendance policy. We do not authorise holidays.

Farewell

Thank you to our teachers and support staff who leave us tomorrow. They have each helped evolve our school, contributing to curriculum development, thinking about how a values-led curriculum can be at the heart of a strong community. We wish them all the best in their future work and know the children in their new schools will have a great opportunity.

We also say goodbye to a number of children who are either changing countries or schools; we wish them well and hope that they have had a positive and happy time at our school.

Artscapers

Children have been working with the Eddington Artists in developing understanding of space and place making. See their invitation below:

Invitation to all families for an everlasting tea party

Join *ArtScapers* at the Open Eddington day to create new creatures and spaces for the community
University Primary School, Saturday 9th September, 2017

Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination, a local arts and well-being charity, has been *ArtScaping* this year with over 200 children from Mayfield, Girton and the University Primary School. Artist Susanne Jasilek has worked alongside classes exploring the NW Cambridge Development (now known as Eddington) in creative ways. Time has been spent investigating spaces, shaping future communities and creatures to inhabit them, building new tea houses and playing with ideas about time.

Open Eddington is an opportunity for everyone to visit this new development. You can visit the tea house on the lake that the children re-imagined. The four free hands on workshops led by Susanne will invite you to play together and shape new creatures and communities for our everlasting tea party taking place at the school throughout the day. Workshops are 10 – 11am, 11.30am – 12.30pm, 1.30 – 2.30pm & 3 – 4pm. Booking for the workshops is advisable as places are limited. Or drop in to see the exhibition of children's work from the past two years at any time between 9am and 4pm.

/free workshops with all welcome and no experience necessary

/booking at www.opencambridge.cam.ac.uk opens from Monday 14th August.

/refreshments provided

/Saturday 9th September, University Primary School, Eddington, Cambridge CB3 1SE

/further information from info@cambridgecandi.org.uk, www.cambridgecandi.org.uk

Being an ArtScaper means to look at something and make your own ideas. Then, just think of the idea you thought of before and mix it up so you can make something even bigger and newer. Then just design it.... then just find stuff that might be used in the future and use that to help you build it. Jared, 8, Mayfield Primary School



Open Eddington 9th September

Please come along and see what is happening in Eddington (the new district previously called North West Cambridge Development). There will be many exciting things to do including a tour of the school. See the link <http://www.nwcambridge.co.uk/news/open-eddington>

Reviewing the situation

As all good organisations will do, we review our processes and decisions as part of robust evaluation. We have undertaken two external Safeguarding Audits, are visited termly by the Department for Education Adviser who reviews the school, have undergone moderation with the Local Authority so that we know our

judgements and assessments are accurate. We did this last year as well and I am pleased that both last year and this, the Local Authority said that our judgements were strong and rooted in good evidence: this is credit to my leadership team and in the teachers across the school. Thanks to them.

We will continue to engage with external educators and organisations so that we benchmark our work against other outstanding places of learning.

Ofsted

Next year will be an even more important milestone for our school: we will have our first Ofsted Inspection. I recently wrote to you with an Ofsted Information guide for parents. We hope that you will work with us in further growing our school, in giving feedback, in completing the online surveys and in championing the school. We have high aspirations and are working tirelessly to realise the vision, values and high educational standards. We will inform you when they are visiting (we get 24 hours' notice).

Final Word

Children Learn What They Live

By Dorothy Law Nolte, Ph.D.

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.
If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.
If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.
If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.
If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.
If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.
If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.
If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.
If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.
If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.
If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.
If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.
If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.
If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.
If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.
If children live with fairness, they learn justice.
If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.
If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.
If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.

Happy holidays and we hope it is filled with many memory making moments.

Kindest wishes,

James Biddulph