

Dear Families,

Thank you so much for a wonderful return after Christmas. You have all been so friendly and kind to me and I have loved starting to get to know all the children and staff and re-acquainting myself with familiar faces from my previous time at East Dene. East Dene is a special school and I am thoroughly enjoying my time back in school in my new role.

One of the areas I feel we need to work on together is the time children are arriving at school. The classrooms are open at **8:40am** and I would appreciate it if all children could get into class for this time. The reason I am requesting this is that we really want children to use the first 25 minutes of the morning going over their learning and acting on the teachers' marking. At the moment, many children are not in class until 9am which means they miss out on valuable opportunities to act upon the teachers' feedback and improve their work. We know that feedback is one of the biggest factors that supports learning so this activity is essential in ensuring children make excellent progress.

I am aware that we need to change some of our practice as well. It is not helpful that the bottom gate doesn't open until 8:40am. From Monday, we will be opening the gate from 8:30am and families can wait on the playground for the school doors to open at 8:40am. We want to see how this goes and if the start of the day needs to be adapted, we will do so. As always, Mrs Turner, Mrs Keyworth, Mrs Kay or myself will be on the playground from 8:40am. We request that parents/carers do not enter school. If you need to see the teacher please request an appointment via Dojo.

We need to be clear that **the gates will only be open from 8:30 to 8:50**. After this time, your child will need to go through the office and will be marked as late. This will come into effect on **Monday 30th of January**.

Breakfast club is another brilliant way of ensuring your child is on time every morning. The breakfast club starts at 8am and is free for free school meal pupils or 50p for other children. I have loved the positive start to the day that the team provide in there and Mrs Saville does a brilliant and healthy breakfast for all pupils to enjoy.

We promote getting to school on time in our weekly attendance assemblies, I hope your children have all told you about them. If a class achieves no lates for a week, they receive 5 minutes extra playtime.

I want to thank you once again for your support over the past few weeks. I know we will continue to improve together, to make sure East Dene is the very best school we can be.

If you have any issues, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks
Mr Tankard