



From the Headmaster: Mr C. Hyde-Dunn, MA(Oxon), PGCE, MA(Ed.), NPQH

Letter to parents of pupils in Pre-prep

Friday 10 June 2011

Dear Parents

Changes to the end of the Pre-prep day 2011 - 2012

At Abingdon Prep we are committed to a curriculum that provides both academic challenge and breadth of experience for all our students. We would like to increase the uptake of enrichment activities amongst Pre-prep and realise that by only providing these experiences outside of the school day, after 4.10pm, it makes the school day for our younger children extremely long.

After a full review of our curriculum and learning opportunities for the Pre-prep department we have decided to make some changes to the structure and timings of the school day. We are very keen to ensure equality of opportunity for all children. Below, I will outline these changes which will come into effect in Pre-prep from the beginning of the next academic year.

Currently there is an opportunity for a flexible collection between 15:30 – 16:10 with clubs running after this from 16.10 – 17.00. We have reviewed how effective this arrangement is and believe we can improve this for a number of reasons. First, the school day for Pre-prep is a long one, from the time the boys arrive in the classroom we ensure they are busily engaged in learning opportunities throughout the day. Their day finishes at 15.30 and we feel in the interest of the Pre-prep children they should be collected at this time. Any child who is not collected by 15.35 will be supervised by our After School Care staff (Margie) but there will be an additional charge for this service.

An exception to the 15.35 collection time will be the boys who use the school bus service or who have an elder sibling in the school. Boys meeting these criteria will be entitled to free after school care until 16.10, when they will be taken to the school bus or collected by a responsible adult.

If you wish to make use of the After School Club until 18.00, this will now be charged from 15:35pm.

We have also conducted a review of the provision of extra-curricular activities for Pre-prep. In order to increase the breadth of experience for all the boys and to use the specific skills of our staff to greatest effect, we will incorporate clubs into the school day and no longer provide the 16.10 – 17.00 option for Year 1 and 2.

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As a result of these changes, we are excited about being able to offer more diverse learning opportunities for all the Pre-Prep children within our school day which will provide a wide range of experiences throughout the year. There will be a dedicated 45 minute enrichment session every week, where children can sign up to one of a range of activities that will provide smaller groups with an extended learning opportunity. Over the six half-terms, children can choose from different clubs covering sport, music, drama, problem solving and creative arts. We believe that this will genuinely offer something for everyone.

These arrangements will also mean that there is consistency in the end of day arrangements for all children in Pre-prep. This will eliminate any chances for errors or confusion, ensuring that adequate safeguarding procedures can be consistently applied to all children.

If you have any questions about this, please do come and speak to me, but hope you will agree that a shorter day and the increased opportunities for enrichment within the school day will be beneficial for all our Pre-prep pupils.

Further details will follow at the beginning of the next term.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Armstrong