



BRINKWORTH EARL DANBY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Serving the communities of Brinkworth and Dauntsey

Headteacher: Mrs K Butt

Believe to Achieve! *"Roots will grow down into God's love and keep us strong"* EPH 3:17

Thursday 9 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing, as promised, with the final decision relating to school opening and closing hours for September.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our recent consultation on the opening and closing times of both sites. We appreciate the time families took to share their views, and governors have carefully considered all feedback alongside our statutory responsibilities. We considered the impact of the current arrangements on staff workload and teaching quality. At present, teachers are required to supervise the playground before the start of the school day, using directed time that should be available for preparation, training, SEND development and curriculum improvement. This has relied on staff goodwill and is not a sustainable model for either site. Supporting staff wellbeing and retention is essential to maintaining high-quality education and stability for the children.

Governors have revised the original proposal to mitigate the impacts wherever possible, while acknowledging that not all effects can be avoided. Although this has been a difficult decision and we recognise it may negatively affect some families, we believe it is the right strategic step to increase staff training and development and strengthen the quality of education for the children.

At the Full Governing Board meeting on 7th July, governors voted by a significant majority to **accept the change to hours proposed** by the School for the Upper and Lower Sites. In reaching this decision, governors reviewed all consultation responses, including supportive comments, suggestions to optimise the proposal, and concerns raised about drop-off times and the impact on work commitments alongside some of the key questions outlined below.

As a result of the consultation, forum meeting, online survey and governor discussions, we can therefore now confirm the following changes, in accordance with the revised proposal shared on the 26th June:

School Day (from 1st Sept 2026)

- **Upper Site:** 08:30 – 15:00
- **Lower Site:** 08:45 – 15:15.

Both sites provide **6 hours 30 minutes** of school time per day, meeting the non-statutory guidance of **32.5 hours per week**. Learning time remains consistent with the current arrangements for both sites. The change is in the removal of before-school playtime. This time is being reinvested in teacher development after school which enhances the education that every child receives.



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Governors spent time considering how the feedback on meeting work commitments could be incorporated. Brinkworth Earl Danby's School is proud of the comprehensive wrap around care provision offered by Kids Planet, covering the hours of 07:30 to 18:00. The school has explored the possibility of alternative school-provided paid offerings before the start of the school day, however, these are not viable. Wraparound care therefore remains the correct and safe mechanism for supporting earlier drop-off. Governors considered the impact of this on both Pupil Premium families and SEND pupils – please see specific paragraphs below.

Through feedback provided, we felt it key to address your input around the staggered start interval. Therefore, the agreed solution is to maintain the existing 15-minute staggered start time between site doors opening. This allows time for safe travel and parking. We appreciate concerns that traffic will return to a one-way flow between schools. Thank you for valuable perspectives on this, which has helped strengthen and refine the original proposal.

Support for Pupil Premium Families

We encourage any Pupil Premium family who may be affected to get in touch with Mrs Butt using uppersite@brinkwortheardanbys.wilts.sch.uk so we can discuss individual circumstances and ensure your child is able to access what they need.

Support for SEND Pupils

We recognise change can be harder for pupils with SEND than for others. We encourage any family with SEND pupil(s) who may be affected to get in touch with Mrs Pocock using uppersite@brinkwortheardanbys.wilts.sch.uk so that we can discuss your individual circumstances and consider what support in transition may be available.

Thank you again to everyone who shared their views. Your feedback was carefully considered and helped inform the final decision. A list of Q&A can be seen overleaf.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Theresa Chapman
Chair of Governors

Mrs Janine Reid Hutchings
Vice Chair of Governors

Mrs Kelly Butt
Headteacher

governors@brinkwortheardanbys.wilts.sch.uk



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Q&A for Parents

Why has the governing board agreed to change the school day?

The governing board has a statutory responsibility to review opening and closing times to ensure they support safeguarding, health and safety, staff wellbeing, and the quality of education across both sites. The current school day requires teachers to use part of their directed time supervising the playground before lessons begin, which reduces the time available for professional development, preparation, and improving the quality of teaching. After considering all evidence, including parent feedback, governors voted to accept the change to hours proposed.

Did governors consider the views shared in the parent survey?

Yes. Governors reviewed all responses carefully. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to share their views, and these were considered alongside statutory requirements, staffing constraints, and the needs of both sites.

Do other local schools offer more hours?

Schools are expected to provide 32.5 hours per week. Local schools have the following offers:

Minety 8:45-3:15
Lea & Garsdon 8:45-3:15
Luckington 8:45-3:15
Oaksey 8:45-3:15
Lyneham 8:45-3:15
Walter Powell 8:45-3:15
Seagry 8:45-3:15
Christian Malford 8:45-3:15

Will the new hours meet the national guidance of 32.5 hours per week?

Yes. (Both sites meet the non- statutory guidance of a minimum of 32.5 hours per week.)

- **Upper Site:** 08:30–15:00 = 6 hours 30 minutes
- **Lower Site:** 08:45–15:15 = 6 hours 30 minutes

What about school buses? Will transport still work with the new times?

Yes. Wiltshire Council has confirmed that school transport will meet the requirements of the new school day. The local authority has stated they will adapt as necessary to ensure pupils can travel to and from school safely and on time.



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Will wraparound care still be available?

Yes. Wraparound care will continue to operate and remains available for families who need earlier drop-off or later collection. Contact Kids Planet (formerly Little Foxes) for more details.

<https://www.kidsplanetdaynurseries.co.uk/find-a-nursery/brinkworth/>

Kids Planet have confirmed they have capacity to look after more children and fit around the new hours. They will look at working with families to accommodate the emerging needs presented.

What time will the school gates open?

At both sites the school gates will be open before school and parents are required to supervise their child/ren until they have entered the school building as there will be no staff supervising until doors open

SEND: Routine and Transition

Will the new opening and closing times affect support for children with SEND?

No. All SEND provision will continue exactly as it does now. The change in opening and closing times does not reduce access to support, interventions, or specialist provision. The new start routine promotes a calm and settled classroom-based activity, which benefits regulation and transition.

My child relies on routine. Will the change cause disruption?

Staff understand that routine is important for all and is especially important for many children with SEND. Visual timetables, predictable structures, and personalised support strategies will continue to be used to help children feel safe, secure and prepared for learning.

What if my child struggles with the new start time?

If your child finds transitions difficult, staff will work with you and your child to plan a supportive approach. This may include adjusted routines, familiar adults greeting them, or additional settling strategies. The school will continue to tailor support to individual needs.