

Timetable Trial

“The biggest room in the world is the room for improvement.” Helmut Schmidt

Dear Families,

When I started teaching at OGPS many moons ago, we had a timetable that was so easy to follow. Two hours inside followed by a half-hour break, then another two hours followed by an hour for lunch, and then a final hour inside. As the school grew, things became more complicated with the timetable, so we could ensure our students had four specialist sessions each week. One thing I think we do well at our school, is to always strive to make things better. So, how could we make our timetable better?

The last double session each day goes for one hundred minutes, and many of our kids struggle to remain focused. As a staff, we looked at how we could help our kids to get maximum learning time. So, we put our heads together and came up with a solution. Simply, we would shorten the morning recess and lunch break, and then add an extra afternoon break. Here is what we came up with:

9:00 – 10:40 sessions 1&2

10.40 – 11:00 morning recess

11:00 – 12:40 sessions 3&4

12:40 – 12:50 lunch eating time

12:50 – 1:20 lunch play

1:20 – 2:10 session 5

2:10 – 2:30 afternoon recess

2:30 – 3:20 session 6

This new timetable still gives the children six 50-minute sessions in the classroom, and 80 minutes of play, including time to eat lunch. I’ve asked students for their thoughts, and the responses have been nothing but positive.

To ensure that this would be beneficial for all students, we decided to have a trial run starting next week and operating for two weeks. If our students and staff feel that this new timetable is beneficial, we may use it next year.

“The bottom line is to have fun and enjoy life.” Rekha

Thanks for all your support.

Andy McNeilly

Mental Health and Wellbeing Coordinator (M-HAWC)

