



1st September 2026

Welcome Back

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you had a lovely summer holiday. We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back at school tomorrow.

Start of the Day

School will open at the normal time tomorrow at 8:40am. Parents of year 3 children should wait on the Quad Playground next to the infant Reception classes from 8:30am. We ask that parents say goodbye to their child in this area as children enter the school on their own. Don't worry, we will have lots of staff on duty to help the children find their way to their new classroom once inside the building. Please be aware that the gate to enter this playground closes at 8:50am. Children arriving later than this time will need to come into school via the main entrance and will receive a late mark so we ask that parents ensure children arrive at school on time.

Parents of children in years 4, 5 and 6 should enter the school via the green gate next to the bicycle sheds. We ask that children do not arrive at school before 8:30am unless they are attending Breakfast Club. The green gate will be open between 8:40am and 8:50am. Children with a sibling in year 3 may enter the school together via the Quad Playground.

Medication

If your child is in year 3 and takes regular medication in school, please ensure it is handed to the staff on duty outside the main office from 8:35am on the first day of term, together with the appropriate form. Children in years 4, 5 and 6 whose medication was sent home at the end of last term as it was due to expire should also hand any new medication to the staff on duty.

End of Day Pick Up

As a large school pick-up time at the end of the day is very busy particularly on the first few days of term when everyone is getting used to a new routine. Parents of children in years 3 and 4 should collect their child at **3:20pm** and leave as promptly as possible as our year 5 and 6 children finish at **3:25pm**. Please see the [map](#) on the school website for more information.

Year 3 children should be collected from the same playground they used to enter the school. Children in years 4, 5 and 6 should be collected from the main playground, which can be accessed via the green gate used by the children when they arrive at school in the morning. When picking up, we ask that parents waiting for children in years 4, 5 and 6 do not wait in the area between the two buildings as it makes it difficult for other parents to enter and exit the playground.

Parents should wait behind the barrier for their class as class teachers will bring children out and dismiss them from the playground. If you would like your child to walk home on their own, please let their class teacher know, or contact the school office.

If you have siblings in the school, and you would like to collect them from the same place, please speak to one of your children's teachers.



As a reminder, cycling and scooting are not allowed on the school grounds.

Breakfast Club and Daily After School Club (DASH)

Breakfast Club and DASH take place every day the school is open. Bookings must be made in advance using your Arbor account. More information can be found on the [Clubs & Activities](#) page on the school website.

Free School Meals

Southend Council is encouraging all parents to complete the short Free School Meals form as soon as possible as more children are now eligible for free school meals. Please see the [letter](#) that was sent to parents in the summer holiday for more information and click on the link: [Free School Meals Data Collection 2026](#) or follow the QR code below to complete the form:



Thank you for your support as we look forward to another great year at Hamstel Junior School.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Farrell
Headteacher