

20th July 2023

RE. Update on opening and closing times in September

Dear Parents/Carers,

We recently consulted you on plans to extend the school day from September 2023 following a directive from the Department of Education (DfE) that all schools had to offer a 32.5 hour week. This is not something that we want to do or something we feel is necessary to provide a high quality education. Closing early to pupils on a Friday allows us to get all of our teachers together for high quality development and support. This in turn has a direct impact on the quality of teaching. This approach has been hugely successful for us for over a decade as well as saving us hundreds of thousands of pounds in a difficult financial climate. Despite this, in compliance with the DfE and in agreement with you, we decided on a plan which would mean opening or extending hours on a Friday afternoon.

Incredibly, this week the DfE announced that it has decided to delay the requirement for a 32.5 hour week until September 2024. Therefore, to give us more time to implement the changes well, the PACT Board, after seeking advice from myself and the Heads, have decided to delay any changes until September 2024. This in my opinion is the best decision under the circumstances. It allows us to plan properly for the change and gives us time to come up with better solutions to the problems this change will inevitably cause. In our primary schools, for example, teachers would have to be released for half a day a week and cover teachers would be needed.

Waiting for another year will also mean that you will not experience any changes to the times of the school day after the summer holidays. I would like to thank you in advance for both your patience and your support in this matter. We have and always will try to ensure the best possible education for our children despite external challenges and pressures. We will always work in partnership with our parents and our community to achieve this and apologise for the last minute communication and any confusion caused around this. However, we have responded as quickly as possible in light of the late notice from the DfE.

To confirm, our school hours in September will remain the same:

Monday – 8.55 – 3.30

Tuesday – 8.55 – 3.30

Wednesday – 8.55 – 3.30

Thursday – 8.55 – 3.30

Friday – 8.55 – 12.00 or 1.00

Friday afternoons will continue with the provision we have always offered.

Kind regards

Phillipa Sherlock-Lewis

Deputy Chief Executive Officer

اگر اس خط کے پڑھنے میں آپ کو مدد چاہے تو برائے مہربانی اس کو سکول کے دفتر میں لے آئیں
এই চিঠিখানা পড়তে যদি কারো সাহায্য চান তবে দয়া করে চিঠিখানা নিয়ে বিদ্যালয়ের অফিসে আসুন

