

William Read Primary Academy

Long Road Canvey Island Essex SS8 0JE

Company Number 9154404

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February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Changes to the school day from September

As a Trust, we are looking from September to slightly change the times of the school day. This will ensure that all children have access to 32.5 hours in school which becomes statutory from September 2024. At present it is 32 hours. This does not mean the children currently have less teaching – we have a shorter lunch break than most schools.

We are consulting staff and parents/carers on two options to increase the children's time in school to 32.5 hours.

Option A

Monday – Thursday 8:25 – 3:15
Friday 8:25 – 1:35
Total time 32.5 hours

Option B

Monday – Thursday 8:30 – 3:15
Friday 8:30 – 2:00
Total time 32.5 hours

Unlike other Trusts, we will continue to be open 190 days a year. Several local Trusts have extended holidays throughout the year, but we will continue to be open for 39 weeks of the year (195 days) minus 5 training days which children do not attend. Occasionally, things are outside our control e.g. despite the numerous amounts of letters I have written over the years, Northwick Park continues to be used as a polling station. On these days, we will deliver on-line learning with teachers available to support children throughout the school day.

For the last 3 years, (following COVID) the Trust has continued to close early on Fridays – providing free childcare from 1:30pm – 3:15pm on Friday afternoons. This was initially offered to parent/carers who were working or studying. During the last year, we have seen an

'If we believe, we will achieve'



increasing number of children staying – many of whom do not have parent/carers working or studying.

This model of an early finish on Fridays is in place in several local schools. Unlike them, until now, we have provided this service free of charge. When we move to implementing 32.5 hours in school, we will be running a Friday afternoon club from either 1:30pm - 3:15pm or 2:00pm - 3:15pm. There will be a nominal charge for children staying on Friday afternoons. At Northwick Park and Leigh Beck, Busy Bears/Little Bears will continue to run from 3:15pm until 5:15pm/6:00pm. Teachers will not be finishing early on Fridays but will have their contractual planning, preparation and assessment time on Friday afternoons, ensuring that for most of the week your children will be taught by their usual class/set teachers.

Please complete the google form to notify us of your preference by following the link below.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezePQYRW-Gmu8Kiv-DDNmgyKu4W2TlzvDkpsxHldeeQFgtA/viewform?usp=sf_link

The consultation will run for three weeks from Monday 29th January until Monday 19th February.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E Lane MBE
Chief Executive Officer