

25 June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers of children at Thames View Primary School

Change of School Week Consultation Outcome

The Howard Academy Trust recently held a consultation regarding a permanent change to the school day organisation for all the primary academies in the Trust. The consultation focused on early closure on Friday afternoon and alterations to the rest of the week to ensure no loss of learning times.

The purpose of the change was to allow teachers to have their statutory PPA time on Friday afternoons thus allowing them to have the maximum amount of teaching time with their class. Please note, PPA time is not permitted to be taken outside of usual school hours. In the past PPA time was covered by Learning Support Assistants. This change also allows us to ensure more learning support time is available from the Learning Support Assistants rather than this time being diverted to class cover.

The consultation has now closed, and we would like to inform you of the outcome. We received responses from 28% of the families across the Trust primary academies. A small percentage of families opposed the proposed changes (11%). All parent responses, and those from staff and governors, have been presented to the Trust Board and the decision has been made to go ahead with the proposed changes.

There were two main concerns-raised through the comments from parents who opposed the proposals, and we would like to address those here. The first was around the charges for Friday Afternoon provision and the impact of this on working families. The Trust want to support our working families and so in response, the Trust have decided to withdraw the charge for staff-led provision. Friday afternoon provision will be free of charge to working families that need childcare for Friday afternoons. Charges will only apply if additional external providers are used for specific clubs, for example Dance Club. Free provision will still be available for those who do not wish to sign up for such clubs.

The second concern was loss of learning time for children. Each academy has now designed their timetable for the week to ensure that learning time matches closely to that which was in place prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, as illustrated below:

Pre-COVID School Day and Learning Hours				New School Day and Learning Hours - September 2021							
Mon - Fri	EYFS	KS1	KS2	Mon-Thurs	EYFS	KS1	KS2				
Gates Open	8.45am	8.45am	8.40am	Gates Open	8.40am	8.35am	8.30am				
Learning Time starts	9.05am	9.00am	8.55am	Learning Time starts	8.55am	8.50am	8.45am				
End of Day	3.10pm	3.10pm	3.15pm	End of Day	3.15pm	3.20pm	3.25pm				
Not included in Learning Time	Registration Times	10mins am 10mins pm	10mins am 5mins pm	5mins am 5mins pm	Not included in Learning Time	Registration Times	10mins am 10mins pm	10mins am 5mins pm	5mins am 5mins pm		
	Breaks	Rolling snack	15 mins am	15 mins am		Breaks	Rolling snack	15 mins am	15 mins am		
	Lunch	1hr 15mins	1hr 10mins	1 hr		Lunch	1hr 5mins	55 mins	50min		
Learning Time per full day	4hr 30mins	4hr 30min	4hr 55min	Learning Time per full day	4hr 55mins (x4 = 19hr 40min)	5hrs 5 mins (x4 = 20hr 20min)	5hr 25mins (x4 = 21hr 40min)				
				Friday	EYFS	KS1	KS2				
				Gates Open	8.40am	8.35am	8.30am				
				Learning Time starts	8.55am	8.50am	8.45pm				
				End of Day	1.05pm	1.10pm	1.15pm				
				Not included in Learning Time	Registration Times	10mins am Registration mark PM	10mins am Registration mark PM	5mins am Registration mark PM			
					Breaks	Rolling snack	15min	15min			
					Lunch	1hr 5	55 hr	50min			
				Learning Time per Friday	2hr 55 min	3 hrs	3hr 20mins				
				Learning time per week Pre - COVID	22hrs 30mins	22hrs 30mins	24hrs 35mins	Learning Time per week - From Sept 21	22hrs 35mins	23hr 20mins	25hrs
					EYFS	KS1	KS2		EYFS	KS1	KS2

I hope this comparison provides assurance to parents/carers that the new school week format will not have a negative impact on curriculum time and its delivery.

Please note, the timings given above are on the basis that the school no longer requires the lengthier staggered starts and finishes introduced as a COVID measure. It is planned that internal structure of the day will also return closely to as it was pre-COVID. Should such measures still be required or be reinstated, small adjustments will be made to accommodate these.

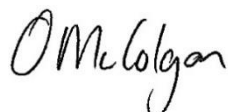
Friday Club provision at Thames View will be led and supervised by our team of Learning Support Assistants and is likely to be organised into Key Stage Groups depending on the numbers involved.

The activities offered will not be curriculum based but we aim to make them enjoyable and purposeful. The offer at Thames View will potentially include arts and crafts, sports and games, outdoor learning and cookery over the course of the year. We would like to give the children some input into the activities offered and to make full use of our staff's expertise.

If you are a working family and will need childcare for Friday afternoons, you will be invited to sign up for Friday Club on Arbor, this facility will become available shortly to allow us to plan for the beginning of the year. Once you have signed up, we will anticipate your child's attendance every week for the whole of the school year 2021-22. We'd ask you to please inform us if at any point you no longer require the provision. Each school may also extend an invitation to attend the provision to families that the school considers will benefit.

As we approach the end of the academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents/carers for the support you have given to our academies throughout the year. When schools returned in September we hoped for a "normal" year, unfortunately local and national lockdowns have caused some disruption to face to face learning. The children in our academies have demonstrated how resilient and responsive to change they are. It has been great to visit them at each THAT Academy this term and hear about the wonderful subjects they have been learning about.

Kind regards



Owen McColgan
Chief Executive