

Friday 21st May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE SCHOOL DAY FROM SEPTEMBER 2021

I would like to begin by thanking all the parents who have supported the school through this year. It has been a time of great change which despite, the challenges faced due to the COVID pandemic, has resulted in an improvement in the provision that we make for our children and the quality of education at St Paul's.

However, in order to continue to maintain the quality of education that we offer the children and to ensure that we are able to meet all of their needs, regardless of their starting points, the governors are proposing a permanent change to the school day and we would really like to hear your views on the matter.

The main change will be Wednesday afternoons. Prior to the COVID pandemic, we finished school at 3.20pm. During the COVID pandemic, school has closed early on a Wednesday to facilitate an enhanced clean. The proposal is to retain this early closure as a permanent arrangement and end the school day at 1.35pm for all pupils.

Feedback from parents during the pandemic has been that the early Wednesday closure has enabled parents and pupils to enjoy quality time to play and learn together and staff the opportunity to work more collaboratively on curriculum developments.

The proposed change is not taken lightly and has been discussed by both governors and school staff. Please take the time to read the rationale for taking this action below.

Reasons in favour:

- St Paul's has received almost a £50K reduction in the budget for the financial year 21-22. This will also be the case for future financial years. To retain an early closure enables us to save this sum while at the same time, maintaining the levels of staffing and support that our children need to thrive and make excellent progress.
- To give the children access to quality extra-curricular learning activities (as during lockdown), which will enable them to learn alongside parents/carers.
- To give teachers continued opportunity to work collaboratively in phases to develop high-quality learning for the children.

Closure of Breakfast Club:

As you will remember, prior to the lockdown, St Paul's operated the 'Earlybirds' breakfast club for parents to use from 8am. Prior to lockdown, we had seen a decline in the number of children attending the club and it was proving not to be financially viable, nor are the children eating their toast on arrival to school. Therefore, the club will not restart for the next academic year. We will, however, revert to providing a mid-morning snack for all children in school.

For many parents these changes will not be significant as most families will have arranged childcare on this basis since last year. However, I realise for some it may be difficult. To help with this, we are happy to signpost parents to The Holiday Club, based in Calton Road who have been collecting our children for an early closure on Wednesdays during lockdown.

The Holiday Club: <https://xgmh6gsjvngx77bx.vistaprintdigital.com/about-us>

We hope that you will agree that this is a positive move for our school but as always, we welcome your views. Please feel free to comment on the proposed change on the form below and return to us by Wednesday 26th May 2021. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish.

Proposed New Times:

School starts	8:45am
Lunch	12.15pm – 1.00pm
School finishes	3:20pm (Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri) 1.35pm (Wed)

School gates will open at 8.35am, for parents to be able to see staff if they need to. Children may come in to school at this time to complete early morning activities.

Please write your comment on the change in school day below:

Name: _____

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Steph Matthews
Headteacher