



Friday 18th September 2020

This week has been another very busy week at school with lots of interesting and exciting learning opportunities happening. It has been wonderful to look around school and see the children engaged and excited during their lessons. Many of the children now have login details for 'Edshed'. This is a website that the children can access to play online spelling and maths games and teachers can also set specific tasks. Please check with your child's teacher if they have not received a log in.



As always, the children have been excellent at following Covid-19 rules. We have been able to provide essential educational activities whilst still keeping everybody safe. Thank you all again for your patience and cooperation at the beginning and the end of the day out in the playground.

Have a great weekend and we will see you all back at school next week!

Mr Silvester

Dinner Menu
Week Commencing 21-9-20
Week 1

In Year 2 this week we have been continuing our work on place value in maths. In literacy we have been reading the story The Rainbow Bear and have been looking at features of the story. We are really enjoying our topic lessons where we have been looking at how Moorends has changed over time.



PE Days
PE Lessons will take place on the following days
Reception – Monday
Year 1 – Wednesday
Year 2 – Thursday
Years 3-6 – Tuesday

Please ensure your child has their PE Kit in school on these days

Year 5 Swimming Lessons – Thursday
(Class 10 only)

Important *Advice for schools* **CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS IN CHILDREN**

A CHILD WHO DEVELOPS ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A POTENTIAL CORONAVIRUS CASE:



NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if the child usually has a cough, it may be worse than usual)



FEVER (TEMPERATURE OF 37.8°C OR HIGHER)

The child will also feel hot to touch on their chest or back



A LOSS OR CHANGE TO SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE

this means the child has noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

MOST CHILDREN WITH CORONAVIRUS HAVE AT LEAST ONE OF THESE SYMPTOMS.



If a child is unwell with one or more of these specific symptoms they should be told not to come into school or sent home as soon as possible and advised to get a coronavirus test. **ONLY** those children with one or more of these symptoms or those advised by their clinician or Local Authority should get a test.



Children reporting other symptoms such as a headache, sore throat, runny or sniffly nose, earache, itchy eyes, lethargy or tiredness **WITHOUT** a fever should **NOT** be treated as potential coronavirus cases or advised to take a test.

If the national guidance on symptoms of coronavirus in children changes, updated information will be provided at a local level as soon as possible. This information about coronavirus symptoms in children can be shared with all school teaching and administration staff as well as parents and carers where necessary.

For further guidance on coronavirus testing for schools, please read the letter from PHE and NHS Test and Trace to school and college leaders at: bit.ly/phe-schools





September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Can you help our school as a Governor?

We have vacancies for three Governors to sit on the Governor Committee at West Road Primary Academy. The school is part of the Brighter Futures Learning Partnership Trust which was formed in September 2019. The Local Governing Board Committee has an important role in that it supports the Trust Board to improve the quality of education and pupil learning experiences. Our Governors have a range of skills and experiences which means we can bring support and challenge to the school and help monitor and evaluate the progress our children make.

We are therefore asking for nominations from prospective **Governors!**

What do I have to do?

First things first, it is not a representative role e.g. parents would not come to you to raise issues which you then raise with the Governing Body, rather we ask you to speak your opinion as a parent in your own right. Being a Governor is such a rewarding experience and you will be instrumental in shaping the vision and strategic direction of the school. You will not be expected to become involved in day-to-day operational matters. You will be expected to contribute to meetings by questioning and helping to evaluate performance by working alongside our senior leaders.

What is the commitment?

We hold a minimum of 4 full Governing Body meetings per year. Governors are expected to come and visit the school to see how we are doing in a particular area; e.g. Phonics, Early Years etc. You would then report back to the Governing Body on what you have found. We have a Governor Visit Policy which sets out how you would work with the school to make every visit count!

What skills and experience do I need?

Knowledge of how a school works is useful but you would be given a mentor from the Governing Body and there is support from the Chair of Governors as well. We send all Governors on free training courses and there are a wide range of online courses that cover all aspects of governance. We are also expected to attend some training which is provided by our Multi Academy Trust depending on what our Governor links are. We are looking for a good level of English and Maths so that you can read the reports, minutes and results and ask questions. Above all, you need to be committed and passionate about the life chances of all children here at our school!

We're keen to involve people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. You may have experience in business, education, community or social work with charities, financial or legal practice, or even be an entrepreneur. The broader your vocational field and cultural experience the better.

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I am interested. What do I do now?

You will need to complete the nomination form which is available in the School Office. We will then invite you in for a meeting where you will have the opportunity to meet with myself, the Headteacher(s) and the Trust CEO.

If you have any questions, just come in and ask, we would be very happy to talk to you in more detail about the role.

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Governor at West Road Primary Academy.

Yours sincerely

Alan Pettigrew
Chair of Governors
West Road Primary Academy

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11th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

New School Holiday Pattern for the 2021/22 Academic Year

From **September 2021**, the Brighter Futures Learning Partnership Trust and all its schools, including Doncaster UTC, will adopt a new holiday pattern following the LA's recent consultation with schools, parents/carers and other local community groups. Although Academies and Free Schools are able to set their own holiday patterns, we have changed our calendar to align to the majority of schools in Doncaster. We have done so based on the feedback from the consultation. The new pattern will have a fixed Easter break with a two-week October half term and a five-week summer holiday, breaking up a week later than usual in July (Please see the attached calendar school calendar). Each school will continue to set its own INSET days which can be found on their website.

Please note the information from the LA consultation below.

What will the new school holiday pattern look like? We are introducing a fixed Easter break with a two-week October half term and a five-week summer holiday, breaking up a week later than usual in July.

With this, we will introduce the following dates for school closures:

- **October half term - 2 weeks**
- *Christmas break - 2 weeks*
- *February half term - 1 week*
- *Easter break - 2 weeks - **this would always fall in the first full two weeks of April regardless of where the Easter holiday falls***
- *May half term - 1 week*
- *Summer break - 5 weeks - **schools would break up a week later than usual in July.***

The full dates and calendar for the new pattern are available to view and download on the school holiday and term dates webpage at <https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/schoolholidays-and-term-dates>

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When will this new school holiday pattern come into effect?

The new school holiday pattern will come in effect for the 2021-22 academic year, meaning the changes will take place from September 2021. You can download the new 2021-22 academic calendar to find specific dates on the school holidays and term dates webpage at

<https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/school-holidays-and-term-dates> in the 'downloads' section.

Why are we changing the pattern?

As a council, we are required to set the school holiday pattern for the schools we are responsible for, which is currently 31 community schools of the 128 schools in Doncaster (Academies and Church Schools who set their own patterns, are encouraged to use the same one but are not required to do so). Every year, more academies and surrounding councils have changed their school holidays and we had become out of sync with many of these.

How was this new school holiday pattern decided?

In early 2020, we held a consultation that was open to all Doncaster residents, parents, schools, trade unions and other representative groups. This consultation gave all respondents the opportunity to feed back their views on the existing holiday pattern, and whether they wanted to retain the existing school holiday pattern, or potentially adopt a new school holiday pattern from a list of alternative options. These options were decided upon following positive feedback from our neighbouring local authorities including Sheffield, Leeds and Nottinghamshire who have all successfully changed their school holidays patterns, and these proposed options have been drafted after working closely with representatives from a range of Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and Multi Academy Trusts.

The consultation was promoted on various channels including the council's social media channels, and directly to all schools and staff, as well as other representative groups.

The consultation saw a huge number of responses – over 7,000, and there was a clear preferred choice that arose from this consultation exercise. You can find more information about the consultation outcome at <https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/school-holidays-and-term-dates> by downloading the '2021-22 Consultation Responses' document available there.

What is the benefit to having a 'Fixed Easter Break'?

This will resolve issues that schools face when the Easter holiday falls later in the calendar which creates a long half term, and can affect SATs preparation. Changing this would allow for more 'even' spring half terms, more preparation time for SATs and consistent lengths for curriculum planning.

What is the benefit of having a 'two-week October'?

This is the longest of the three terms. Other schools in Doncaster and other local authority areas who have adopted a two-week autumn half term have reported positive impacts on school planning and attendance and has been well received. It also means that children will be away from school one week less in the summer which can help with the retention of skills and knowledge they may have gained in the previous school year, and reduces the amount of childcare parents/guardians need to arrange in the summer.

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Impact upon Attendance

In terms of attendance, which is one of the main drivers for change, this is a primary focus in the new Ofsted framework and the Health and Well Being of school staff. As such, it is incumbent on the employer, in this case the Local Authority for community schools, to consider the positive impact that a two week in October would have on staff welfare. Providing a two week break, in what is the longest term, will allow staff to have genuine downtime and so have a positive impact on staff absence due to illness during the long term.

Pupils, whose attendance and sickness have been shown to improve with a longer break over the longer term, will also feel the benefits to staff. It is expected that the productivity of both staff and pupils may be positively impacted by a two week break.

The two-week break is also a positive step for parents by allowing them to take a longer holiday at what is often a cheaper time of year thus potentially reducing the number of unauthorised holidays taken at other times in the year.

What were the other options that were consulted on?

There were a total of four options presented as part of the consultation (more detail below), one being to retain the existing schools holidays pattern, and three alternative options. Option '3' was deemed the preferred choice of consultation respondents, and is the one we will be taking forward.

OPTION 1 - We keep the existing school holiday pattern. With this option, the existing school holiday pattern would stay the same with the following school closures:

- *October half term - 1 week*
- *Christmas break - 2 weeks*
- *February half term - 1 week*
- *Easter break - 2 weeks*
- *May half term - 1 week*
- *Summer break - 6 weeks*

OPTION 2 - We introduce a fixed Easter break. With this option, we would introduce the following dates for school closures:

- *October half term - 1 week*
- *Christmas break - 2 weeks*
- *February half term - 1 week*
- *Easter break - 2 weeks - **this would always fall on the first two full weeks of April regardless of where the Easter holiday falls***
- *May half term - 1 week*
- *Summer break - 6 weeks*

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OPTION 3 - We introduce a fixed Easter break with a two-week October half term and a five-week summer holiday, breaking up a week later than usual in July. With this option, we would introduce the following dates for school closures:

- **October half term - 2 weeks**
- **Christmas break - 2 weeks**
- **February half term - 1 week**
- **Easter break - 2 weeks - *this would always fall in the first full two weeks of April regardless of where the Easter holiday falls***
- **May half term - 1 week**
- **Summer break - 5 weeks - *schools would break up a week later than usual in July***

OPTION 4 - We introduce a fixed Easter break with a two-week October half term and a five-week summer holiday, with pupils returning to school a week earlier, in August. With this option, we would introduce the following dates for school closures:

- **October half term - 2 weeks**
- **Christmas break - 2 weeks**
- **February half term - 1 week**
- **Easter break - 2 weeks - *this would always fall in the first full two weeks of April regardless of where the Easter holiday falls***
- **May half term - 1 week**
- **Summer break - 5 weeks - *schools would return in the new academic year a week earlier in August***

Should you require any further information, please contact your child's school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Redford-Hernandez
CEO Brighter Futures Learning Partnership Trust

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