

TERRINGTON ST CLEMENT COMMUNITY SCHOOL



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Dear Parents/Carers

Consultation Regarding Friday 1pm Finish

You will be aware that our closure at 1pm on Friday afternoons was implemented initially in response to the Covid-19 Restrictions in place for schools. Nursery sessions remain unaffected. Although wider society is continuing to open up, restrictions for Primary Schools remain largely unchanged. However, we are starting to look to the future and consider how we operate this from the Autumn Term onwards. We also want to evaluate how this is working for all, so governors would like your input on this to help inform future decisions.

In making the decision to close on Fridays at 1pm, we based this on the following principles:

1. No learning time should be lost as a result

We have increased the learning time in school (an earlier start and later finish and also shortened the lunch break slightly). This has increased learning time by 30 minutes each day, Monday to Thursday and by 25 minutes on Friday morning. A total of 2 hours and 25 minutes across the week. This has resulted in exactly the same amount of learning time in school each week despite the early closure on Friday. EYFS have slightly less time required in school anyway but we do plan to bring start and finish times into line with the rest of the school as soon as staggered pick and drop off times are no longer required.

The reorganised time has been used to very good effect as we have slotted in an additional daily reading lesson. We believe that this is a far better use of time than the time on Friday afternoons when both children and staff are tired. Our learners are making great progress with their reading despite the time out of school over the past year so we know this is working well.

2. Provision should be in place for parent/carers that work and need the school provision until normal time on a Friday

We do not question or turn away any parents that request this currently, although we do ask that they commit to either attending or not rather than request this ad hoc. This allows us to plan staffing whilst the bubble arrangements remain in place. However, again we do, and have made exceptions, where this has been necessary.



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3. Preparation Planning and Assessment (PPA) time should be planned to allow teachers to work collaboratively and minimise any disruption to learning

PPA time is a legal requirement that all teachers are entitled to. As I am sure everyone is aware, teachers do not start and finish working each day when the children do, so this supports teachers to maintain a good work life balance and do the best for our learners. Grouping PPA together also enables teachers to plan and resource lessons in collaboration so that all learners experience the same learning across the phase group regardless of which class they are in.

We have in the past used our experienced Higher Level Teaching Assistants and Cover Supervisors to cover PPA with slots allocated across the week. An additional benefit to arranging PPA time on Friday afternoons has meant that we make better use of these experienced staff during the week to help support in class and run intervention groups. It also means that the staff covering Friday afternoons know the learners in that phase group well, rather than moving staff across the school into classes where they are less familiar with the learners. All lessons in school are now taught solely by teachers unless they are released from class for other reasons. However this occurs less frequently than weekly PPA slots.

Other schools across the country do and have put similar arrangements in place, both during and prior to the pandemic, as often this works well for parents and the school. I know many parents have commented to me how positive they feel this is by creating a smoother start to the weekend, possibly getting home learning tasks out of the way and enabling quality family time at the weekend.

For the educational benefits detailed above we are keen to continue this arrangement, rather than shorten the school day again and return to our original opening hours. One option we are considering, is that in the autumn, we extend this childcare provision for any parents/ carers that request this regardless of work commitments, but still allow those parents that wish to collect their child at 1pm to do so. In our survey we are asking parents to comment on whether they would use this facility or continue to collect their child at 1pm on Fridays. We have also provided an additional free text box for any other comments which you wish to make. The survey will remain open for 3 weeks until Friday 11th June 2021 at 1pm.

[Friday Afternoon Survey](#)

If you would like to ask any further questions about this, please do catch either myself or Miss Adams in the playground.

Yours faithfully



Miss A Conner
Headteacher



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