



DELVES LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Delves Lane, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 7ES

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Monday 4th December 2017

Consultation Letter: Changing the Times of the School Day

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following the Autumn Governing Body Meeting, I am writing to every parent to seek your views on a proposal to alter the timing and format of the school day at Delves Lane Primary School from February 2018.

In Nursery:

The Nursery, the proposal is to start at 8.45am and finish at 11.45am (morning session). For the afternoon session, the proposal is to start at 12.05pm and finish at 3.05pm in line with Key Stage One.

In Reception and Key Stage One (Infants):

In Key Stage One, the proposal is to start at 8.50am and to reduce the lunch hour to 45 minutes and finish at 3.05pm instead of 3.25pm. Children in Key Stage One will still get an afternoon break time.

In Key Stage Two (Juniors):

In summary, the proposal is to start at 8.50am, to reduce the lunch hour to 45 minutes and to remove the afternoon break time and finish at 3.10pm instead of 3.30pm. This will mean the school day will start at 8.50am and finish at 3.10pm.

The minimum teaching requirements as advised by the Government are not being compromised by these proposed changes.

I set out below the reasons for the proposed change and details of the consultation arrangements. Starting at 8.50am instead of 9.00am will give our pupils more of an opportunity to learn in the morning sessions when research has shown this is when primary children are most alert. The majority of our pupils are already in the yard at 8.45am ready to start the school day and punctuality in the school is very good.

By changing the timings in the morning and afternoon the emphasis on continued progress and attainment of our pupils can be reinforced. It is my responsibility to ensure that pupils are ready and prepared to learn in all lessons and that the time within the school day is focussed on this objective. I am confident that taking away the afternoon break time will have a tremendous positive impact on learning in the afternoons. Most Key Stage Two pupils in schools do not have an afternoon break time and many behaviour incidents occur at this time of the day here at Delves Lane Primary School. There is no evidence to support the afternoon break having a positive impact on children's learning; in fact, the break to the learning sequence can often be counterproductive for our children.

A key priority is the safety of our pupils at the beginning and end of the school day. By finishing at 3.25pm/3.30pm many children leave school in the dark during the winter months, particularly when they attend after school clubs, some of which we have to postpone because of severe weather and dark winter nights. By finishing at 3.05/3.10pm it will also help those families who engage pupils in external after school activities, many that start at 3.30pm elsewhere. As a school we have also noted an increase in parents requesting early pickups at 3pm so that children can attend external events and medical or dentist appointments that are booked for an after school time.

As a staff we are working more closely than ever before with schools in our cluster. We undertake a variety of training and moderation events. The majority of our local schools close by 3.15pm and training



at various sites begins at 3.30pm. By working with other schools more closely we can share good practice and continue to drive school improvement.

By reducing the lunchtime to 45 minutes, this will alleviate a number of behaviour incidents which frequently occur in the last 15 minutes of the session. Our lunchtime supervisory team will be available to hear children read after their lunchtime duty for 15 minutes each day. This will support the development of children's reading skills across the school.

Under this proposal we will not change the arrangements for the school Breakfast Club but will change the After School Club provision to fit in with the proposed time changes. We will also explore additional childcare provision early in the Spring of 2018 and will consider offering extended childcare which will be chargeable by the session.

The Governors and staff feel strongly that these changes will have a positive impact on the welfare and education of the children at Delves Lane Primary. It is hoped they will provide children with an improved learning experience by creating a more balanced approach to the school day. If you would like to share your views, please complete the form.

The consultation period will end at 4pm on Friday 12th January 2018 so please respond before the deadline. The Governors and myself will then consider the responses and will inform all families of the outcome before the end of January 2018 to facilitate any changes that may occur from the end of February 2018 (second half of Spring term 2018).

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Woods
Head Teacher

Mrs Fewster
Chair of Governors



Change to the School Day – Parent Consultation

Name:	Name of child: Class:
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Response:

Signature:	Date:
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