

EDWALTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Head Teacher Mr A L Thomas

Wellin Lane, Edwalton, Nottingham NG12 4AS Tel 0115 9144221 Fax 0115 9144220
office@edwalton.notts.sch.uk www.edwaltonprimaryschool.co.uk

Monday 15th February 2021

CONSULTATION TO ALTER THE TIMES OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Dear Parents, Carers and other interested parties,

First of all thank you for your support during what has been a very difficult time for children and families in our community. The way that you have all come together to support the children, has been truly magnificent. We are currently looking forward to seeing the children very soon and are considering many ways to do the very best for both their wellbeing and attainment.

Linked to this, I am writing to share with you a proposal to alter the times of our school day from September 2021. The proposal, rationale, and details of the consultation process are outlined below. The proposed changes are in response to listening to feedback from parents (informal), children and staff. Having considered a potential change, there are countless advantages of changing the school day (see rationale below).

The consultation period will be open for a period of 4 weeks between 15.02.21 and 15.03.21. Queries or comments (either objections or supporting the proposal) can be made to the Head Teacher via email (office@edwalton.notts.sch.uk).

Consultation feedback will be presented to the Governors at the 17.03.21 Full Governing Body meeting where a final decision will be made. This decision will be communicated to all parties by 19.03.18, giving 15 full school weeks' notice of any changes that may be made.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Thomas

Anthony Thomas (Head Teacher)



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The Proposal

Official school day times (until March 2020):

Start	8.50am
Lunch	(1hour 15 mins)
Finish	3.30pm

Temporary school day times (since March 2020):

Start	8.35 - 8.45am drop off window
Lunch	(1hour)
Finish	3.00 - 3.10pm collection window

Proposed changes:

Start	8.45am	start 5mins earlier
Lunch	(1hour)	reduced by 15mins
Finish	3.10pm	finish 20mins earlier



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The Rationale

Lunchtime:

- At 1 hour and 15 minutes, EPS lunchtime is unusually long which increases the potential for accidents and for children to become disengaged with such a long time period
- Many parents, staff and middays have expressed the opinion that lunchtimes are too long. Children generally take 10 – 20 minutes to eat their lunch; this means that they are outside for up to 1 hour and 5 minutes
- This length of time is more likely to cause behaviour issues, which can carry through into the classroom disrupting teaching and learning
- Our younger children find the dinner break too long and it can impact negatively on the concentration during the afternoons
- During the winter, the younger children can also become very cold
- Such a long period of time can be more difficult for our children with social and emotional needs
- The reduction of the lunch time would not be detrimental to the midday staff team as the additional time they would not be on lunch duty can be used for activities that support our children, for example reading with children and supporting wider school activities
- Hours and salary for the Teaching Assistant team would also not be adversely impacted upon.

Finish time:

- In the past parents have asked if their children can leave school early on a weekly basis to attend an after school club (e.g. swimming). This has to be refused and parents have stated that clubs are difficult to get to because of our current finish time – as a school we are keen to support wider curriculum activities (particularly following the detrimental impact of the COVID-19 lockdowns) and this fits with our ethos of the development of the whole child and working in a way that meets the needs of our families
- Out of School Club: Kids School Club next door to school, can accommodate the proposed changes to the end of the school day



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- Our staff are able to access a wealth of CPD opportunities. Many of these are twilight sessions at the end of the teaching day. An earlier finish time would enable our staff to take full advantage of a wider range of CPD to the benefit of our children and school
- Teaching Assistants finish at 4.00pm. An earlier school finish time would allow EPS to offer meeting times and internal CPD for the Teaching Assistant team after school which also further enhances our inclusive approach to staff development
- An earlier finish time would allow the school to more easily provide after school tuition for identified pupils to boost academic performance following the COVID-19 periods of remote learning.
- Currently staff meetings and leadership meetings start at 3.50pm and do not finish until 5.00pm or later. An earlier school finish time would allow meetings to start earlier and enable all staff to be part of the sessions, to the benefit of staff and children, and to show the positive way in which the school is considering staff well-being
- As many competitive sports fixtures take place with schools who have an earlier finish, some pupils miss vital lesson time by leaving early for fixtures and some fixtures are cancelled due to issues with the light
- Some clubs e.g. Cross Country Club can only run at certain times of the year as it becomes dark shortly after the end of the school day in the winter months
- Following the change to the school day, from March 2020, due to school COVID-19 risk assessments and in order to prioritise site safety, the temporary change to the school day is likely to continue for the remainder of the school year which means that by September 2021, the school community will have been working to similar timings for 18 months.
- None of the above changes affect the length of teaching time each day. Nor do they affect the number of working hours of teachers or teaching assistants. The proposed structure is beneficial first and foremost to our children and families (directly responding to requests and suggestions) to pupil well-being (following the COVID-19 pandemic) and to the development and well-being of our staff, which in turn impacts on morale and teaching and learning.

The Consultation Process

1. Draft statement prepared by Head Teacher in consultation with FGB.
2. Proposal submitted to Nick Layfield (FHT Operations Manager) to share with Flying High Trust Board of Trustees & Central Team for feedback pre-consultation launch
3. Consultation launched to all stakeholders - for a period of 4 weeks commencing:



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w/c 15.02.21

4. Queries or supporting comments made to the Head Teacher via email (office@edwalton.notts.sch.uk).
 5. Consultation feedback presented at the 17.03.21 Full Governing Body meeting where a final decision will be made
 6. Communicate decision to all stakeholders
- Given that start and finish times are affected, the required period of notice is at least 3 months
 - The proposed changes, if approved, would take effect from September 2021
 - All stakeholders will be consulted

Copies to:

<p>For consultation: EPS parents/carers FHT Board of Trustees and Central Team Edwalton Primary School employed staff Catering staff (employed by NCC) Edwalton Kids Club Edwalton Governing Body Teaching Unions: NAHT, NASUWT, NUT Teaching Assistant Union: Unison NCC Highways</p>	<p>For information: (proposals do not directly affect these parties but the option to express an opinion will be offered) Cleaners (employed by Quality Matters via letter) Rushcliffe School (local secondary school via letter) Local residents (via letter displayed in local area and shop) Family of Schools (via letter) Local MP</p>
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