



14th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Parental Consultation -
Proposal to change the length of the school day for the Academic Year 21/22**

Thank you to everyone who has fed back as part of our School Development Planning Work. One of the most frequent comments was regarding Friday afternoons. As you know, this year we have put teachers Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time on Friday afternoons and school has been closed for the majority of pupils. From September 2021 we will be changing our school week back to a full five days per week. We are also proposing to lengthen the school day. When we have looked at other schools in the local area, they have longer days than Speenhamland and in order to maximise our time with our pupils we are proposing a change as follows:

The school day will start at 8.30 am daily and finish at 3.00 pm Monday to Friday for Reception and Infant Children, and finishing at 3.10pm Monday to Friday for all Junior children.

We believe these changes will be beneficial to the school community, and will have a positive impact on your child's education. We will be able to maximise teaching time across the week ensuring we have the time to provide a broad and balanced curriculum and give quality time to the basics of literacy and numeracy each and every day, which includes enrichment activities and extra events.

We have staggered the end of the school day as we know this has worked very well this year, allowing time for families to collect younger siblings before older ones are dismissed. Only allowing children into the playground at the start and end of day is also something we will be keeping going forward, we have found the children have been much more focussed when parents just 'drop and go'. They have come into school and into classrooms ready to learn for the day.

We appreciate that a change to timings may not suit everyone but our job is to ensure our pupils receive the very best education and we believe by making these changes will support us to do this. We will be extending Dragon Club opening hours in the morning so we open at 7.30am rather than 8am if we have enough parents who request this.

The information in this letter has also been sent to West Berkshire Transport for those children who access transport to school. We will make sure we work together so that there is minimal disruption.

I appreciate that these changes may affect you in terms of childcare or working arrangements, and in terms of your child's education. For this reason, I would like to invite you to give your feedback by sending your responses to office@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org by Tuesday 25th May 2021.

We will release the results of the consultation in the week after half-term, via a letter.

Yours sincerely

Dr C Wilson
Executive Headteacher

Mrs S Loy
Chair of Trustees