

21st June 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

On the 15th May I wrote to all parents to open a consultation into a proposed change to the school day starting in September 2018. It was proposed that the school day would start earlier (doors opening between 08:30-08:45 instead of 08:45-09:00) and close later (15:30 instead of 15:20). It was also proposed that pupils would finish at 13:30 on Fridays to allow for staff development and to facilitate a better approach to planning, preparation and assessment.

As part of the consultation, interested parties were invited to share their views on the proposal in writing by the 22nd May. A total of 197 responses (staff and parents) were received during the consultation, of which 151 supported the proposed changes (77%).

The governors of River Bank Primary School have reviewed all the responses to the consultation, considered the comments and suggestions made and questioned school leaders in light of the consultation. **Having considered all views, the decision has been made to make the changes to the school day from September 2018.**

There have been some changes to the proposal as a result of the consultation document. These are outlined below in addition to some of the other key facts about the benefits of this change:

- Many parents felt that finishing at 13:00 on Fridays instead of 13:30 would support families better – this change has been made to the school day as a result.
- The changes to timings increases the amount of time pupils spend learning in school. There is no current Department for Education guidance on this but in the past it has been suggested that 21.5 hours for Key Stage 1 (Years 1-2) and 23 hours for Key stage 2 (Years 3-5) was acceptable. Our new day would mean pupils in both key stages would be well above this recommendation.
- Teachers will now teach their classes for the majority of the week; this could not happen under the old structure because teachers had to have release time for planning, preparation and assessment. This can now take place on a Friday afternoon.
- Making these changes does not save the school money – this has not been a cost saving exercise.
- Any pupils that cannot be picked up at 13:00 on a Friday can stay until 15:30 in a free activity club. The normal, **paid** after school club will be available to parents after this time (between 15:30 and 18:00).

A table showing the new times can be found on the next page.

Continued

River Bank Primary School, Bath Road, Luton LU3 1ES

Telephone: 01582 531860 Email: info@riverbankprimary.org Web: www.riverbankprimary.org

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This change is being made as school leaders and the governing body believe that investing in high quality staff training and adopting a collaborative approach to planning and learning is the best way to improve educational outcomes in our school. The impact of these changes will be measured and evaluated by school leaders and the governing body. The views of staff, students and parents will be a key part of the evaluations that take place.

I would be happy to meet anyone in person for a further discussion if necessary. If this is the case; please contact the school to make an appointment.

Yours sincerely



David Sansom
Headteacher



Jon Williets
Chair of the governing body

Early Years	
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday	Friday
08:30-08:45 Doors open	08:30-08:45 Doors open
08:45-10:30 Lessons	08:45-10:30 Lessons
10:30-10:45 Snack time	10:30-10:45 Snack time
10:45-11:30 Lessons	10:45-11:30 Lessons
11:30-12:45 Lunch	11:30-12:45 Lunch
12:45-15:20 Lessons	12:45-13:00 Lessons
15:20 Collection	13:00 Collection
Years 1 and 2	
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday	Friday
08:30-08:45 Doors open	08:30-08:45 Doors open
08:45-10:30 Lessons	08:45-10:30 Lessons
10:30-10:45 Playtime	10:30-10:45 Playtime
10:45-11:45 Lessons	10:45-11:45 Lessons
11:45-12:45 Lunch	11:45-12:45 Lunch
12:45-15:30 Lessons	12:45-13:00 Lessons
15:30 Collection	13:00 Collection
Years 3, 4 and 5	
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday	Friday
08:30-08:45 Doors open	08:30-08:45 Doors open
08:45-10:30 Lessons	08:45-10:30 Lessons
10:30-10:45 Playtime	10:30-10:45 Playtime
10:45-12:00 Lessons	10:45-12:00 Lessons
12:00-13:00 Lunch	12:00-12:45 Lunch
13.00-15:30 Lessons	12:45-13:00 Lessons
15:30 Collection	13:00 Collection

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