



Saltaire Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr R. Whitehead



14th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

New School Timetable September 2021 Friday Enrichment Afternoons

I'm writing to inform you about some exciting changes we will be making to the school week from September 2021. Over the course of the last year, the pandemic has regularly challenged our thinking about the school's organisational arrangements and educational provision. In doing so, we have identified a number of areas which we believe can be further improved.

As we enter the summer term, we are making plans for the new academic year following a huge period of disruption to children's education with limited access to social and cultural experiences. We have given a lot of thought to how the school day can be organised to suit the needs and interests of our children. We know that children learn best when they have sustained contact with their class teacher combined with a wide range of enrichment opportunities such as sport, arts and music.

From September this year, we are changing the school day to ensure that children have increased access to teaching from their class teacher. On Friday's, formal learning will finish at 1:30pm and a broad range of activity clubs will be provided that children can choose to be part of. This will be for all children from Year 1 to Year 6. Next year, our Friday afternoon club provision will be provided without charge so that all children will have a range of clubs to choose from. Children will get to choose a different club each half term. As the school day will officially end at 1:30pm on Fridays, children will also have the option to go home on Friday afternoons - this will be according to parental preference however every child who requires a place will be able to stay at school.

This change to the school day also means that most children will benefit from a consistent timetable which ensures teachers have sustained contact with their pupils every day, rather than needing to take time out of class for planning time (known as PPA). Teachers will now take their PPA on a Friday afternoon while children attend clubs. Clubs will be delivered by trained teachers, higher level teaching assistants, coaches and other appropriate adults.



Website: www.saltireprimaryschool.co.uk

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The following table provides a flavour of the activities that will be on offer to children on a Friday afternoon. This is not a complete list and will be subject to change each term:

Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
Young Artists Yoga Young Designers (D&T) Saltaire Scientists Forest Schools	Young Voices Young Artists Gardening Club Dance Drama Multisports Football

The official timings of the school week will be as follows:

Day	Doors Open	Start Time	Finish Time
Monday to Thursday	8:50am	9:00am	3:30pm
Friday	8:50am	9:00am	1:30pm

Overall, the official amount of lesson time each week in Key Stages 1 and 2 will be 25.5 hours. Although this is slightly shorter than the current time, it meets the Government expectation of 23.5 hours. The new timetable has been discussed and agreed by the Governing Body.

In Reception, the doors will open at 9:00am and the day will finish at 3:20pm. This will be the same every day but parents will also have the opportunity to take their children home at 1:30pm on Fridays if they wish.

The new arrangements will be in place for a year in the first instance however we plan for this to be the long-term arrangement going forward. I will write to you later in the summer term to confirm whether or not your child will be staying at school on Friday afternoons.

I'm sure you'll agree that this represents a really exciting and enriching offer for all of our children and we look forward to putting our plans in place in the new academic year.

If you have any questions or comments about the new arrangements, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the school office. We also have parent forums taking place on Monday 17th May at 10:00am, 2:00pm and 7:00pm via Zoom. You can sign up to those via Eventbrite [here](#).

Kind regards,



Rob Whitehead
Headteacher