



Dear Parents,

Over the past two weeks, I have been sharing information with you via the Newsletter and have held two open consultation meetings with parents regarding our proposed changes to the school week.

### September 2026 Proposal - Opening Times

Mon- Thurs 8:30am – 3:30pm

Friday 8:30am – 1:00pm

- Breakfast Clubs and After-school clubs will continue as normal.
- Resource Base transport will be informed of the changes.

We recognise that the changes may impact on parents who also work and so as part of this consultation, we are considering:

- Paid after-school wrap-around care options for parents who want their children to stay at school until they finish work during the week.
- A free Friday Club 1- 3pm for families where both parents work, full time, including Friday afternoons.

### Why are we proposing this change?

- Attendance on Fridays is lower than on Mondays. This proposal will be combined with a strategy to boost Friday attendance.
- Pupils struggle when they have a change of teacher and all teachers must have  $\frac{1}{2}$  day per week for planning; this proposal will reduce the need for cover teachers as planning will be on Friday afternoons.
- Friday afternoons will be for teacher planning and preparation. This will improve staff wellbeing and therefore provide a better education for our children. Nationally, there is a real issue with teacher retention and we recognise the importance of looking after our staff.
- Other local schools have successfully adopted a similar model.
- A longer lunchtime will allow time to eat properly, and for greater physical activity and focused social skills, which our children need.
- We are continuously reviewing and improving our curriculum. This strategy will provide better value for money and prevent budget restrictions which will otherwise impact on our quality education.

Parents who attended the meetings said that it really helped them to understand the proposal, and they appreciated the chance to talk about it together. They have given very positive feedback and were in favour of the proposal.

### What happens next?

- By 1<sup>st</sup> February, gather views of parents.
- 11<sup>th</sup> March, decision made by governors.



# St Benedict's Primary School

*Enjoying our rights and fulfilling our dreams*

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## What do parents think of this proposal?

Parents like the proposal because:

- More time at home for children to rest at the weekend.
- More relaxed family time at the weekend.
- Children will have their consistent teachers all week.
- It is in line with what other schools do.
- It will make it easier to get children to school on Fridays as they are more tired – they will like the half day.
- Children will be more excited to come to school on Fridays.
- More time for children to eat at lunchtimes.
- Easier for families that need to travel to see relatives with a longer weekend.
- Opportunity for children to go to the Mosque on Fridays.

Parents also recognise that there are some potential drawbacks:

- Some parents may need to change their working hours to pick up at the new times, but recognise that they have time to do this.
- Some children may find the longer days more tiring.
- Some families may find it difficult to get to school on time.
- Traffic is difficult at Friday lunchtimes.

## What do you think of this proposal?

Use the QR code below and give your feedback by 1<sup>st</sup> February.

[Parents consultation on changes to school day](#)



As always, your continued support is valued. Many thanks, Mrs Nott, Headteacher.

