

St Clement & St James
Consultation with parents

Early Fridays

Proposal to close school early on Friday afternoons



At this very difficult time during the pandemic, staff absence is higher than usual and we need to explore ways to make the running of the school more efficient. We propose closing school after lunch on Fridays.

What will happen on Early Fridays

- Classes will finish by 12:35pm on Fridays and children will stay for lunch before going home
- Early Fridays will start from Friday 8th January 2021
- Children of parents who need childcare (working parents as well as key workers) can stay at school until 3:30pm and will be supervised by support staff. There will be activities for children to engage in while remaining in their bubbles.
- Children with an education and healthcare plan (EHC) may be able to stay until 3:30pm depending on the hours allocated in their plan and a discussion with staff about what is the best way to meet the child's needs
- Children will have their lunch before they leave
- We will stagger departure times:
 - Children in Early Years will have lunch then go home from 12:30pm
 - Children in KS1 will stay for lunch then go home at 1:00pm
 - Children in KS2 will stay for lunch then go home at 1:15pm
- Older children with younger siblings can go home early at the same time as their younger brother or sister

Other points to note

- The school will continue to meet the statutory requirements for teaching hours at each key stage as we already have longer days than is required during the rest of the week.
- A number of local schools, including Fox and Ashburnham, already have Early Fridays so we know they work well for both the school and families
- We will trial this proposal during the spring term and seek feedback from parents, pupils and staff.

Benefits

- This will mean teachers are in class for most of the week and children will not miss out on having their teacher with them.
- Savings on money and time as valuable staff will not be needed to cover PPA (planning, preparation & assessment) time during the rest of the week.
- Families will have extra time together (and when there are less restrictions, will be able to plan weekend breaks and visits to museums, art galleries and the park at a time when they are not so busy)
- When staff absence levels are high due to sickness and self-isolating this will mean we are more likely to be able to cover classes and keep the whole school open.
- Better productivity as Friday afternoons are usually rather unproductive for children because they and their teachers are exhausted by this point in the week
- More time will be freed up for support staff to carry out interventions such as hearing children read (at the moment some of our more experienced higher level teaching assistants cover PPA).

Next steps

- Parents are invited to respond on a google form if they wish to take up the free childcare offer or if they have any comments to make
- The responses from parents will be reviewed by governors and senior leaders
- If there is agreement then we will trial Early Fridays during spring term
- We will evaluate the success, or otherwise, of the Early Fridays at the end of the spring term

Please complete the very short response form in this link - [Early Fridays consultation link](#)