

20<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

**Re: Consultation on proposed changes to the school week**

There is an expectation from the Department of Education (DFE) that schools work towards a 32.5 hour week. At present Heath Mount Primary School has a school week of 30 hours and 35 minutes. We would like to extend this school day to 31 hours and 10 minutes in the first instance.

Following DfE guidance schools should also 'prioritise lesson time over breaks'. Therefore we would also like to change the arrangements on a Friday to ensure that the amount of time for learning is increased.

Heath Mount Primary has for many years finished early on a Friday to enable the school to close early for teachers' planning, preparation and assessment time (PPA).

This, as I am sure you know, allows the school to look at all available resources and to allocate them to achieve greater impact on standards across school during the rest of the week.

We do not want to change this, as we know that many families welcome this time to be together and use the afternoon to book dentist and doctors appointments to reduce any school absences.

**Why consider these changes?**

**We want to increase the learning time for the children in our school.**

The proposed changes are as follows:

**Current:**

8.45am – 3.20pm (3.15pm for Reception) Monday to Thursday  
8.45am – 1pm Friday (with pupils finishing lessons at 12 & 12.15pm for lunch)

**Proposed:**

**8.40am – 3.30pm (3.20pm for Reception) Monday to Thursday**  
**8.40am – 12.30pm Friday**

- School will start at 8.40am
- School will finish at 3.25pm (for Reception) and 3.30pm (for KS2) instead of 3.15pm and 3.20pm respectively.
- School will finish at 12.30pm on a Friday.
- School lessons on a Friday will continue through until 12.30pm instead of finishing at 12pm & 12.15pm for a lunch break.
- Pupils entitled to a Free School Meal will be given a lunch to take home with them.

If you would like to comment on the consultation, please email [consultations@excelsiormat.org](mailto:consultations@excelsiormat.org) with your comments. All comments will be reviewed and taken into consideration.

The consultation period will close on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 4pm, and any comments received after that time will not be included.

**Excelsior Multi Academy Trust**

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