

Discovery Multi Academy Trust
Beechwood Primary Academy,
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Chief Executive Officer: Mrs Alison Nettleship
Chair of the Board: Mrs Julia Guy



Thursday 12th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you all for your contributions to our recent consultation regarding changes to the school day. At our Board meeting last week, your comments and questions were reviewed and it was agreed that I would send you responses to your questions and provide you with a further opportunity for comments and questions. Please see below the questions that were raised by parents and carers across the Trust.

What support will SEN/struggling children get in order to deal with the change?

Currently these pupils may experience a number of teachers in their week who cover staff absence. In making these changes there will be more consistency for these pupils during their time in class. By considering a January start this will also give the schools time to discuss the possible changes with the children and support any transition arrangements. It is hoped that our school staff will support the provision of childcare on a Friday afternoon, so these adults will be known by the children.

Would it be possible to access the Friday afternoon session as and when we need it? We would need childcare some weeks but not others.

Friday childcare will be for those parents who work on Fridays or who are in full-time education on a Friday and this will need to be evidenced. Following this, parents can request as necessary.

What would the Friday afternoon provision be like? Will the children be taught, or would it be like an after-school club?

This would be like an after-school club but may support learning as this may be helpful to the children.

Will it be the same adults looking after the children on a Friday afternoon?

We hope that this will be existing school staff, but will know more further through the process.

Will after school clubs continue to run on a Friday?

School clubs will run on other days to limit the confusion to pupils and parents.

How will this benefit the children?

Currently the children have staff other than their class teacher covering them for parts of the week. This can be disruptive to learning as well as wellbeing for our pupils and this will mean that apart from our Early Career teachers and part-time staff, the children will have their full-time teacher more consistently.

Will breakfast club hours start earlier or will the times remain the same and the cost decrease?

This has not been decided, but the current view is that the start time would adjust.

How will it affect the nursery?

Nursery children will still be entitled to their provision, and this will be reviewed by the individual school with parents.

What is the capacity for Friday afternoon after school care and will there be limitations on the number of participants?

As above, we would like to accommodate all parents who would qualify for this provision.

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What would happen to trips that fall on a Friday and Summer/Christmas fetes that usually happen on a Friday?

The schools would amend the dates so that these wonderful activities can still go ahead.

What time would the children have lunch on a Friday?

This will be calculated once we know more detail from staff.

At what age are children allowed to walk home by themselves?

Please contact your school for this information.

How will more work fit into these school hours?

Schools are required to provide 32.5 hours of education in a week. School timetables will be reviewed to ensure that all pupils receive the appropriate balance of learning in these amended days.

Why does Weston Mill have after school club and not the other schools?

After school provision at Oakwood and Beechwood has been provided for many years by Southway Playcare. There were no organisations that provided this for Weston Mill, so this requirement from parents was fulfilled by the school.

Why are we being charged for the Friday afternoon provision?

As this is not part of the Government directed teaching time, any resources that would be used cannot be purchased from our schools budget. Whilst this is a relatively small cost at school level, we are investigating ways in which this could be overcome for parents, and will let parents know in due course.

Would there be allowances for medical appointments that have already been booked expecting a 3:15 pm finish?

Of course. There will be some adjustments that need to be made in the short time and this will be supported through your Head of School.

When would we be notified if this change happens?

The consultation is continuing and the implementation of this would possibly be after Christmas. We will obviously keep you informed as soon as any decisions are made.

If you would like to contribute further, please send this to info@discoverymat.co.uk by 23rd October 2023. Following this the Board will inform us of next steps.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison", written in a cursive style.

Alison Nettleship
Chief Executive Officer