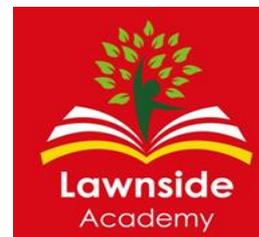


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6th June 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

Consultation Response

We received 8 responses to the consultation to reduce the length of the lunchtime break and the end of the school day by 15 minutes each (7 parents / 1 Dawn Until Dusk).

End of day:

Dawn til Dusk's objection to ending the school day at 3:15pm, as opposed to 3:30pm, is that this would reduce their setting up time. They begin setting up at 3pm at Ivel Valley College and collecting the children at 3:15pm would hinder this. If the school does finish at 3:15pm, they ask that Lawnside staff escort children to a meeting point at 3:25pm to be met by their staff.

Objections received regarding reducing the end of the day by 15 minutes by parents were in relation to child care arrangements for working parents and whether, for those children who already attend Dawn Until Dusk, those parents would be charged an additional 15 minutes per day. In addition to this, the Lawns Nursery also finishes at 3:15pm so parents who have children at both the Lawns and Lawnside would struggle to collect from both sites at the same time.

Lunchtime:

There were fewer objections to reducing the lunch break by 15 minutes; the main objection being to the reduction in the time the children have to play and socialise. There were, however, a number of questions raised to this:

Is this a budgetary decision? - No, staff hours will remain the same however, if we just shorten the lunchbreak (and not the end of the school day) this will add 15 minutes per day to teachers' directed hours (75 minutes per week / 47.5 hours over the course of a school year).

What provision is already in place for children who struggle with unstructured time at school? - We employ a sports coach every lunchtime who organises a variety of sporting activities and Mrs. Bell / Mrs. Hanmer run both a KS1 and KS2 SEAL club. We are also planning to offer a gardening club from September and will look at what other provision we can offer.

Do children not already have an afternoon playtime? - No, children in KS1/KS2 do not have a timetabled afternoon playtime. Children in Early Years enjoy child initiated activities (indoors and outdoors) throughout the course of the day.

Proposal:

Taking into account the consultation responses received (8), school governors have agreed the following, effective from September 2019:

1. Keep the end of the school day to 3:30pm.
2. Stagger and reduce the children's outdoor lunch break to 1 hour (with Midday Supervisors supervising the children in class for 15 minutes after this outdoor play for a story and/or quiet reading) therefore not impacting on any staff hours.
3. Timetable a 15-minute afternoon break (either by year group or by key stage) therefore not compromising children's social time.

Thank you to those of you who responded to the consultation – your views really are appreciated and hopefully you will see that we have listened to your replies. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to make an appointment via the school office to speak with me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Cheryl Johnson
Principal