



Low Ash Primary School, Wrose Road, Wrose, Shipley BD18 1AA
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20th May 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Although it's been a short half-term, it's definitely been a very busy one! To start, a big well done to the Year 2 children who have been doing their SATs tests this week. Both the Year 6 pupils last week and the Year 2 pupils this week have worked incredibly hard and should be very proud of themselves.

After the holidays, week commencing 6th June, a reminder that Year 1 pupils will have their phonics screening check (a government assessment to test the pupils' phonic knowledge.) Children in Year 4 will then complete their Multiplication Tables check at the end of June. This is a further government assessment to check knowledge of times tables.

Lengthening the School Day proposal

As you may be aware the Government announced recently that from September 2023, schools must offer a minimum of 32.5 hours to pupils during the school week. Low Ash does not currently fulfil this requirement. We have had many discussions with staff and school governors (including parent governors) and below is our proposal.

From September 2022 (1 year earlier than the Government deadline), we are proposing that we extend the Low Ash school day to 3.30pm. This would allow for more flexibility within the school day. Lengthening the day to 3.30pm would also enable us to offer Friday afternoon as an 'enrichment afternoon'. During this time, pupils would have the opportunity to take part in a range of different activities (e.g. drama, Forest Schools, music activities etc) which would be in addition to the compulsory National Curriculum. After school clubs would continue to take place, the majority of them finishing at 4.15pm (as opposed to 4pm).

We have considered how this extra half an hour at school might impact pupils, some of whom are already tired at 3pm. For this reason, we have made the decision that school assemblies would take place during this final half an hour of the day instead of at 9am. However, the achievement assemblies would continue to take place at 9am on a Friday morning. This would allow for learning to begin first thing in the morning at 9am when pupils are at their freshest. Children in Key Stage 1 would also have an afternoon breaktime. (In Foundation Stage, pupils are outside in provision much of the time so don't have formal breaktimes.)

Should you have any comments you wish to make about this (either positive or negative) or any further questions, please email office@lowash.bradford.sch.uk with the subject 'Lengthening the School Day' by Friday 10th June. We will confirm plans for next year once we have discussed any feedback we receive.

Entrance Building Work

A reminder that building work on our new school entrance is due to commence over the school holidays. You may have noticed the large yellow portacabin in the school car park – this will become the temporary school office and main entrance while the building work is taking place. On the morning of 6th June, there will be no access to the school office (although of course you will be able to contact us by phone) but from the afternoon of 6th June, the main school office will be located in the yellow portacabin. There will be council and/or school staff around at the start and end of the days to direct parents and carers over the first week.

As always, thank you for all your help and support with everything this week. We hope that you have a lovely holiday and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 6th June.

Yours sincerely,

Beth Medhurst and Fiona Meer (Co-Headteachers)



Co-Headteachers
Mrs B. Medhurst & Mrs F. Meer



Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all children and expects staff and volunteers to share this commitment.