



BROOKSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rostherne Avenue, Great Sutton, Cheshire, CH66 2EE
0151 558 1123 www.brookside.cheshire.sch.uk

Headteacher – Mr D Orme BA (Hons) NPQH Deputy Head – Ms J Smith B Ed (Hons) NPQSL
"Happy and Successful in Everything we Do!"

Monday 22 January 2024

Dear Parents

I write to you to share our plans for lengthening the school week from September 2024.

The government has set out expectations that all schools in England should be delivering a school week of 32.5 hours by next September. This applies to all mainstream, state-funded schools in England. It does not include pupils in early years settings [Nursery], 16-19 provision (including school sixth forms) or specialist settings, such as special schools and alternative provision, but specialist settings and alternative provision are also encouraged to consider extending their core week where appropriate. You can find the government guidance here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64a2f21fbb13dc000cb2e5e1/Minimum_School_Week_Non-Statutory_Guidance.pdf

The guidance states: "A core school week is the time from morning registration to the official end of the school day for all pupils (including breaks)." At Brookside, our hours currently fall short of the new expectations as our school day goes from 8:55am to 3pm (30 hours and 25 minutes a week). This is a shortfall of 25 minutes a day or 2 hours 5 minutes a week.

The length and structure of the school day and week is the responsibility of the governing body for maintained schools and of trustees for academies. Having looked at a range of primary schools in Ellesmere Port who are already delivering 32.5 hours of schooling a week and consulted colleagues, all but one had school hours from **8:45am to 3:15pm** and recommended these as the best start and finish times. Our staff are unanimous in backing the 8:45-3:15 arrangement for next year. **The Governing Body of Brookside Primary School therefore intends that from September 2024, Reception to Y6 children will start at 8:45am and finish at 3:15pm.** As stated above, Nursery hours are not affected and sessions will continue as presently from 9am to 12pm and from 12pm to 3pm.

The government guidance states that: "Schools that are not yet meeting the minimum expectation of a 32.5 hour week will want to think about how extra time is used in the context of their school improvement priorities and in ways that allow practical considerations to be addressed." We will be very pleased to use the extra time for further opportunities to boost reading and maths attainment which are key aspects of our school improvement plan. Additionally, many lessons in our wider curriculum will benefit from extra time for consolidation, sharing and reflection on learning. Breaks and lunches will remain the same, with additional breaks depending on the needs of the children at the discretion of the class teacher.

I want to consult parents about this important and necessary change. If you would like to share your views, please make any comments on the back of the letter and return it to school where it will be given careful consideration. Final confirmation of the new school week will be made after the Governors have met for their Spring Full Governing Body Meeting in late March.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Orme
Headteacher

