



# THE HOWARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Staff, Parents and Carers,

For some years now, TSSMAT have had 2 weeks half term break around Whit week and then returned a week earlier than other Staffordshire schools during the bank Holiday week in the summer holidays in order to conduct the majority of the annual INSET days.

I have had several communications asking:

- When the term dates are for 2023/2024 in order to avoid term dates for holidays
- If we had considered reverting our plans to one week during Whit week and having 6 weeks in the summer returning the week after the bank holiday and then having 5 INSET days across the year.

There are pros and cons for both having two weeks in Whit week and five weeks in the summer or having 1 week during Whit week and 6 in the summer plus 5 INSET days.

I am sure you can consider the positives and negatives of each option for you and your family.

Examples include:

### **Pros / Positives**

- Parents have less childcare to find in the summer
- A shorter summer with less impact of lost learning
- The additional week falls in the better weather directly after SATS
- Cheaper holidays during the two weeks around Whit week as its classed as term time
- Not having 5 randomly placed INSET days across the year and the childcare challenges this poses
- All staff are together in one place to conduct necessary training together.
- Staff feel that they have 1 week to write reports and work and then a week break during the 2 week Whit week break.

### **Cons/ Negatives**

- Parents/carers have more childcare to find end May/early June
- Siblings / spouses may be in a different school and be unable to have the additional week across Whit to benefit from cheaper holidays or time together
- We cannot follow up developments as we do not have the flexibility of INSET days across the year
- Some years, the return for staff means there are circa. 4 weeks break in order to complete all work and have family time.

In order to make an informed decision regarding how we will proceed in the academic year **2023/2024** please complete the following google form by **Monday 17th October at noon**.

<https://forms.gle/HSKATQX6XbUa6EMa7>

We will then communicate with you the 2023/2024 term dates immediately after the October half term. Thank you.

Kind Regards,

Mrs. Charlene Gethin

Chief Executive Officer



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