

23rd September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

For some years now, TSSMAT have had a 2 week break at half term around Whit week and then staff have returned back a week earlier than other Staffordshire schools during the bank Holiday week in the summer 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 positives and negatives for both options.

- 2 weeks Whit week (Usually the end of May beginning of June).and 5 weeks in the summer for Staff, 6 weeks for children.
- 1 week at Whit week and 6 weeks in the summer for staff and children with a further 5/6 INSET days across the year.

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

Pros / Positives

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 easily 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.

Cont/...

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

<https://forms.gle/jKedoRXUu8gTdDzu7> - Form link.

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