

Forest Gate Community School

27th February 2017 Ref: SE/HI Forest Lane, Forest Gate, London, E7 9BB Tel: 020 8534 8666

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Headteacher: Simon Elliott

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Extended Winter Break Consultation

As part the school's forward planning for next year we are considering the possibility of increasing the Christmas break from two weeks to three.

This would mean pupils having an additional week away from school in the autumn term. A similar arrangement is in place in a number of schools nationally.

As a consequence of the above proposed change, the school day would be extended slightly to redistribute learning time across the year. The changes would look like this:

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Current finish	3.23pm	2.50pm	3.23pm	3.23pm	2.50pm
Proposed finish	3.40pm	2.50pm	3.40pm	3.40pm	2.50pm
Difference (mins)	17	0	17	17	0

The first term of the year is a demanding one, as evidenced by the significant spike in pupil absence in the half term leading up to Christmas. This lost learning time has a significant and detrimental effect on pupil progress.

We are confident that a three week Christmas break would allow pupils and staff to be fully refreshed and further secure the effectiveness of learning. In addition, a three week Christmas break will enable us to offer early intervention and support during the extended break as appropriate for targeted pupils.

The proposed additional week's holiday will present the opportunity for families to benefit from off peak prices and make the possibility of a family holiday abroad more realistic for many.

Finally, the extended learning time on Mondays, Wednesday and Thursdays will be used to provide additional learning and enrichment opportunities for students. This will allow us to enrich the broader educational experience every week whilst addressing pupil's specific educational needs.

If you have any comments regarding this proposal please email my PA, Hannah Inayat: Hannah.Inayat@forestgate.newham.sch.uk by Monday 20th March. You will be notified of the final outcome of this consultation at the end of April.

Yours faithfully



Simon Elliott Headteacher