



Epsom Primary & Nursery School  
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20<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Parents /Carers,

Please see below important information regarding our journey towards academisation. As you are aware, in the Spring term we consulted with parents on joining Bourne Education Trust. Parents who responded were positive and supportive of becoming part of a bigger family of schools where we can share expertise, training, leadership and resources. Our conversion to academy status is registered to take place in the Autumn term 2022.

The below document from Bourne Education Trust, outlines an additional consultation regarding the proposal of changes to term dates to balance the term length more equally and bring Epsom Primary and Nursery School in line with other Bourne schools.

Please take time to read and if you would like to share your views you are encouraged to submit them by email on [consultation@epsom.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:consultation@epsom.surrey.sch.uk) The consultation closes on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

Kind Regards

Michelle Pollard (Headteacher) and Lisa Kent (Chair of Governors)

### **Consultation Advisory Document**

Epsom Primary and Nursery School Governors are consulting on the proposal of shortening the length of the school year and changing term and holiday dates. The effect of this change part way through 2022/23 would be to make the school year 186 days (including three INSET days) from the current 195 days. In future years, there would be two INSET days, making the school year 185 days.

### **Consultation period**

*Consultation start date: Friday 20th May 2022*

*Consultation end date: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022*

### **Seeking views on shortening the length of the school year and changing term and holiday dates**

The Governors are consulting with staff, parents and the wider community on the opportunity to change the term dates for 2022 – 2023 and subsequent years.

Adjusting term dates is one of the academy freedoms that many schools in Bourne Education Trust have employed because of the advantages it offers pupils, parents and staff:



Head Teacher: Mrs Michelle Pollard  
Deputy Head and Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Jo Jarvis  
Assistant Head Teacher of Teaching and Learning: Mrs Gemma Allan

<b>Benefits to pupils</b>	<b>Benefits to parents</b>	<b>Benefits to staff</b>
Reasonably balanced terms which align better with neighbouring schools which older siblings often attend	Reasonably balanced terms which align better with neighbouring schools which older siblings often attend	Reasonably balanced terms
Reduces the impact on students' learning because they are tired at the end of terms	Reduction in child's sickness absence	Reduction in sickness absence because of the extended break in the long autumn term
Uninterrupted learning by replacing INSET days with twilight training	Fixed calendar of school days by replacing INSET days with twilight training	Training provided regularly throughout the year
Opportunity to book holidays in off peak times, thereby reducing pupils' absence in term time for family holidays	Opportunity to book holidays in off peak times	Opportunity to book holidays in off peak times
	Reasonably balanced terms which align better with other local BET schools	Aligning with other BET schools will allow for more collaborative training and development
37-week year could be an incentive to recruit and retain high quality staff	Recruitment and retention of staff	37-week contact with students would be an incentive to staff

All BET schools that have adopted the shorter, better-balanced autumn term report improved staff and pupil attendance, morale and wellbeing, fostering better learning outcomes.

### **Proposed changes**

We propose adopting a term date structure which includes a two-week October half term, balancing out the normally very long Autumn Term. The academic year is structured into 6 relatively even blocks of around 6 to 7 weeks with good recovery time between each one. Part of the proposal is to restructure staff training to see weekly twilight (after school) training and reducing the number of INSET days. This will remove the interruption to learning during term time and ensure greater continuity for the children.

### **Proposed term dates**

The proposed term time for students for 2022-2023 are as follows:

<b>Autumn Term 2022</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>No of Days</b>
<i>INSET days</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022</i>	
Autumn Term 1	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2022 - 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	35
<i>Existing half term</i>	<i>24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022</i>	
<i>INSET day</i>	<i>31<sup>st</sup> October 2022</i>	
<i>New half term days</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 – 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022</i>	
Autumn Term 2	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2022 – 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	30
<b>Spring Term 2023</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>No of Days</b>
Spring Term 1	3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2023 – 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	29



Spring Term 2	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2023 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	30
<b>Summer Term 2023</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>No of Days</b>
Summer Term 1	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023 – 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	30
Summer Term 2	5 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 – 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	29
<b>Total pupil term days</b>		<b>183</b>

In this academic year (2022/23) there will be three INSET days on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 and on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022. That brings the term dates for staff to:

Total pupil term days		183
INSET days		3
Total school term days		186 (37 weeks)

There would be two INSET days in subsequent years, usually two days together before the start of the autumn term, taking the term dates for staff to 185.

**Please do not book holidays based on these dates as they are draft at this stage and part of the consultation.**

#### **What happens next?**

Your views on our consultation are welcome. Please submit them by email on [consultation@epsom.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:consultation@epsom.surrey.sch.uk) or in writing to the school to Chair of Governors, Lisa Kent, Epsom Primary and Nursery School, Pound Lane, Epsom, Surrey, KT19 8SD.

The consultation closes on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022**.