

Friday 18th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I last wrote to you about our Friday afternoon close in March of this year. At this point, I explained that we were proposing to continue this approach for statutory PPA entitlement. The consultation period for parents to share their views ended on Friday 9th April. Since then, responses have been analysed and shared with our MAT Trust Board with over 70% of parents supporting the proposal. After careful consideration of all factors, including the positive impact that this change could have on our school improvement journey, a decision has been reached: Sutton Park Primary School will close at 1pm for most pupils on Friday afternoons.

From a school improvement perspective, this approach allows for greater collaboration amongst professionals during PPA as everyone has their release time at the same time. This enables Senior Leaders to support more intensely with planning support and allows for collaboration with colleagues across our five PACT schools too. It is an approach which has been used successfully in our other four schools for several years and has had great, beneficial impact on the provision. It is also an approach which has been adopted in several other schools in Sutton Coldfield since September.

There may be parents who are unable to take their children home early on a Friday. Depending on their circumstances, their children may be able to remain in school. Working parents or those in full-time education for example, will be able to leave their children in school on Friday afternoons. The 'Friday Club' offer will be accessible to families meeting the criteria previously shared and will be staffed by support staff in school. This is not academic in nature and focuses on team games, craft activities and play. Due to some exciting curriculum changes across our Trust from September, we will no longer be working with Junior Jam for these sessions.

Timetables are being carefully planned for all year groups to ensure that every pupil receives their statutory entitlement to a full, broad curriculum. Subjects such as Music, French, Art & Design will all be catered for alongside the essentials of Reading, Writing and Maths across the school week.

Before the new academic year begins, our Friday close as a Covid control measure will also continue. On the final day of term – Friday 16th July – school closes to ALL pupils at 1pm. This marks the end of the academic year and there is therefore no 'Friday Enrichment Club' on this day. (This information has been shared previously via newsletters and letters home.)

I will be writing to you before the end of this half-term to share more details about September, including: our House system, lunchtimes, and the team in school. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Middleton
Head of School