

Thames View Infants



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Dear Parents/Carers

Consultation: Proposal for a 2 Week October Half-Term for 2025-2026

The Directors at Thames View Infants are in the process of setting the dates for the forthcoming Academic Year. Directors are seeking your feedback in a consultation about a proposal to trial a **2 week October half-term during the 2025-2026 Academic Year.**

Over the years, we have noticed that as the cold weather arrives during the Autumn Term, viral infections in School spread and typically continue to rise into November and December. This puts additional pressure on families and children, as Parents/Carers attempt to balance children's recuperation with regular School Attendance.

Our proposal attempts to break this cycle of cross-contamination, by giving families a fortnight's half-term holiday in October, instead of the usual one-week. We believe this may act as an extended "flu-break", giving all children more time to recover fully from any lingering colds before returning back to School and mixing with their peers again. Directors hope that this measure will improve children's attendance during the Autumn Term.

The Autumn Term is also traditionally the longest of the Academic Year. Our proposal breaks this up into two more evenly balanced half-terms of 7 weeks each, which children might also find more manageable.

In addition, the penalties for unauthorised School Attendance have increased this year. We know that families can find it difficult to arrange family holidays due to excessive travel costs during School Closures. We hope that the additional week might also give our families the opportunity to book holidays at slightly cheaper rates, before the clocks go back and the shorter days start.

We are in negotiations with Premier Education to run a Holiday Club during this period, to support our Parents.

In this proposal, the length of the Academic Year will be reduced to 186 days, 4 less than typically. Directors propose that the impact of this reduction to children's learning will be minimised, due to the high standards of learning and attainment in School, validated by our most recent, and third consecutive Outstanding Ofsted Inspection. Directors are aware that other Schools have adopted this initiative beyond the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.



Directors are seeking your feedback on this proposal and the consultation will run until Friday 8th November 2024. Directors are consulting with all Parents/Carers at Thames View Infants, as well as Schools within our local area, and would really value your feedback. You can contribute to this consultation via the below link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7AAPPK3osk2JFB5BIYJwQ8BBQOU86qZIkpuC5fVyR7RUMjiNSIIIWURBMFowQVIRU0JVODZZUEJRWS4u>

Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to respond to this consultation. Directors thank you for your input.

Yours sincerely



Paul Jordan
Headteacher