

12th June 2017

Dear Parents and Carers of:

Hayes Primary School
St Mary Cray Primary Academy
Castlecombe Primary School
Dorset Road Infant School
Leesons Primary School
Midfield Primary School

Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Term Dates of the Academic Year commencing September 2018 at all Spring Partnership Schools

We are consulting regarding possible changes to our academic year from **September 2018** (not this September).

In summary, the proposal is as follows:-

- To introduce a two-week half-term break during the autumn term, rather than the one week break currently in place;
- To keep the same, legally required 190 days of teaching for pupils in the academic year;
- To retain the 5 staff training days (INSETs) (in addition to the 190 teaching days) throughout the year when staff are required to attend school to complete in-service training.

We ask you to read the following information carefully, to ask for clarification on any points, and to respond to the consultation by responding to the questions detailed below via the email address provided. We will inform parents and carers of the decision following this consultation.

Background

The local authority sets the term dates for the academic year for all maintained schools within the borough. The term dates for our schools are set by the Trust with reference to those set by the local authority and include the suggested 190 school days for teaching as well as observing public holidays. Additionally schools have an additional 5 days of in-service training for teachers known as Inset days to be scheduled by the schools.

Proposed Change to the Term Dates of the Academic Year

A number of schools currently operate a two week half term break in the autumn term and an increasing number of schools have adopted a change to their term dates and are introducing a two week half term or are consulting about similar changes, including Bromley schools. We recognise that the autumn term is a long term for pupils and staff and believe that taking steps to address this will be in the interests of pupils and staff physical, emotional and educational wellbeing.

Schools which have introduced a two week half term have reported that there has been an increase in focus and progress by pupils in the autumn term and there has been a reduction in pupil and teacher sickness and absence.

The proposed term dates for **2018-2019** are as follows:

Autumn Term 2018

Tuesday 28th August - Thursday 20th December

Half term: Monday 22nd October – Friday 2nd November

(Provisional Inset Days: Tuesday 28th August / Friday 21st December – further dates to be scheduled)

Spring Term 2019

Monday 7th January 2019 – Friday 5th April

Half term: Monday 18th February – Friday 22nd February

(Provisional Inset Days: yet to be scheduled)

Summer Term 2019

Tuesday 23rd April to Friday 19th July

Half term: Monday 27th May – Friday 31 May

(Provisional Inset Days: yet to be scheduled)

Consultation and consultation timeline

We would like to consult with staff, parents and carers, other stakeholders and the wider community on these proposals. The consultation will run from Monday 12th June 2017 to Friday 7th July 2017. We would like your responses to the following questions:

1. Do you support the extension of the October half term from one to two weeks? **Yes/No**

- Additional comments (optional)

2. Do you support the proposed term dates for 2018-2019? **Yes/No**

- Additional comments (optional)

Please respond to the consultation by Friday 7th July 2017 by sending an email to contact@springpartnership.co.uk with the word 'consultation' in the subject box. Any additional comments or requests for additional information can also be sent to this email address.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this and your response to this consultation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanna Brinkley".

Jo Brinkley

CEO

The Spring Partnership Trust