



The School Year and Term Times – A Review

December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Back in 2014 I consulted with you on ideas to adapt our school year and term times to better support our learners and the needs of our community. This was a freedom we had as an academy.

The Local Authority sets out the term dates for schools under its control and increasingly academies are varying these dates to fulfil their needs.

The result of the 2014 consultation meant that we created even spring terms of 6 weeks, not influenced by when Easter fell. Over recent years the LA have started to adopt this idea too.

One of the other proposals at the time was to adapt the autumn term. Traditionally the autumn term has always been 15 weeks + split into two terms and it is clear from a teaching and learning point of view that the children struggle to focus towards the end of a long term, particularly in the run up to Christmas.

I would like to gain an understanding of your feelings towards an idea I have for improving the autumn term so that I can use the information to inform my future thinking. **THIS IS NOT A VOTE FOR A CHANGE – It's just to gain your opinions.**

I have two reasons for proposing this idea:

1. To create even autumn term times that support learners to thrive, focus and make better progress
2. To give families two opportunities to take holidays out of the more expensive, common half term break. (This would support improvement in our attendance and reduce the number of requests for term time holidays sighting this reason.)

My Idea Proposal

To start the autumn term on the Wednesday after the August Bank Holiday and have three 5 week terms with a week's break in between each term and the usual two weeks at Christmas.

I would be pleased if you will submit your views by Friday 11th January 2019. Thank you for your support.

M Walsh

Mr M Walsh Headteacher

***Please tick the box that best suits your opinion and return this slip to the school office**

I support this idea proposal and would like the school to investigate its feasibility further.	I reject this idea proposal and wish for the autumn term to continue to follow the LA pattern.
Comments:	
Signed:	Parent/Carer

