

# Success for All



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12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to inform you of a proposed change to the future structure of the school day here at Nene Valley Primary School.

They are:

- **That the end of the school day would permanently change from 3:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. for all children.**

The proposals have already been discussed with the Trust's Local Governing Body at Nene Valley, and with the Board of Trustees for OWN Trust. They have both agreed that a formal consultation with parents should now take place.

Should the changes be approved, they will come into force from **1<sup>st</sup> September 2021** (the next academic year), although this may be subject to temporary arrangements such as staggered collection, if the current situation with COVID-19 remains. This proposal has been under consideration for a number of years, but we are considering it at this point in time as it would lead to the least disruption to families because of the extent of the current arrangements due to COVID-19. The changes would also bring Nene Valley into line with the other schools in the Trust, who already finish at 3:15 p.m. each day.

I believe that these changes will be beneficial to the school, and will have a positive effect on your child's education.

Since it first opened in 2003, Nene Valley has operated a longer school day than almost all other primary schools in Peterborough. In fact, 48 of the primary schools in Peterborough have school days that are at least 15 minutes shorter and 14 schools have days that are at least 30 minutes shorter. This means that the majority of children at primary schools in Peterborough are in school for more than an hour less, with a quarter of them doing 2 ½ hours less per week. Whilst this may seem like a good thing for the children at Nene Valley, there are negative aspects that we need to address.



Currently a full day for teaching assistants lasts from 08:30 to 3:30 (finishing at exactly the same time as the children). This means that they are unable to meet with teachers to feed back on work carried out with groups or individuals, and are unable to prepare for the following day's activities. This means that the targeted support that they provide, although high quality, is not as effective as it could be.

Many after school clubs are necessarily limited in length, as they have to start later than in the vast majority of schools.

The amount of time available after school to complete homework and take part in extra-curricular clubs and leisure activities is less than children at other schools, and with the increased attention to children's mental health this slight change would reduce pressure at home and support children's wider development.

Many children, especially younger ones, become very tired towards the end of the day, with a negative impact on their attitude and learning. A longer day does not automatically equate with more learning, but can have the counter effect of developing poorer attitudes and behaviour.

Undoubtedly, there are also benefits to Nene Valley staff that are already enjoyed by staff at other schools. When joint meetings across the Trust have taken place, or other network meetings and professional development, Nene Valley staff usually have to either leave school early to attend, or as is more often the case, arrive late. This means they inevitably miss out on some aspects and also arrive already under stress to get there. Similarly, end of day staff meetings at Nene Valley start and end later than the majority of schools, meaning staff are delayed getting home when they usually start work on assessment and planning.

The information in this letter has also been sent to key local childcare providers, including Kingfisher Kids Out of School Club and local secondary schools. We will make sure to work together so that there is minimal disruption.

I appreciate that these changes may affect you, in terms of childcare or working arrangements, and in terms of your child's education. For this reason, I would like to invite you to give your feedback by sending your responses to [office@nenevalleyprimary.net](mailto:office@nenevalleyprimary.net) no later than Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

We will release the results of the consultation by 12<sup>th</sup> April so that any changes can be managed with a full school term's notice. We will write to all parents directly at this time, as well as publish the outcomes on the school website.

Kind regards,

*Stuart Mansell*

Mr. S Mansell  
Head Teacher

