



# ALDERLEY EDGE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

chair@aecps.org 01625 704 510 www.aecps.org



**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Dear Parents,

Prior to publishing the term dates for the academic year 2023-2024, I wanted to make you aware of some changes taking place and the rationale behind them. The Governing Body set the term dates for the year based upon recommendations from the Local Authority, the Headteacher and other local, maintained schools' holiday dates.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022, we held an extraordinary Full Governing Board Meeting where the Board discussed term dates for the academic year 2023-2024 and beyond. The Board voted, with a significant majority, in favour of moving to a one-week holiday during the May Whitsuntide half term holiday and to finish one week earlier for the summer holidays. The children will still attend the statutory 190 school days and we will have 5 INSETS (195 days in total).

As a Board, we take our power to act very seriously, our decision is primarily focussed on the best educational outcomes of the children we serve. We did, of course, also consider factors such as staff well-being and parental opinion.

The following limitations to our current two-week May half-term were discussed:

- Most other Wilmslow schools, including Wilmslow High School, have one week in May/June, so changing would align us with them. Now seems a more appropriate time than ever, given our movement to becoming a multi-academy trust.
- Many families with children at Wilmslow High School and/or private schools book holidays around their term dates and finish early in the summer.
- The phonics screening check in Year 1 and the national multiplication check in Year 4 are affected. In particular, the school only has one week (rather than two weeks) post-holiday to prepare children and to administer the phonics tests and therefore there is more chance that a child will be absent and miss it.
- Attendance in the last week before AECPS closes in July has been particularly poor. This results in children missing out on key school moments such as end of year trips and performances, and ultimately negatively impacts the children of AECPS.
- It will be particularly difficult in 2023/2024 to get the extra week needed at the end of term. This would result in putting 3 INSET days in at the end of an academic year, which is not an effective use of time in terms of CPD for staff and strategic developments for the school, which should have a positive impact on the children's education.

As a result of the deliberations, the Governing Body of Alderley Edge Community Primary School have set our term dates to match those of other schools in the area for the foreseeable future.

This decision has been made with the best interests of the children of AECPS in mind and we thank you in advance for your understanding and co-operation.

Kind regards,

Mrs Claire Finch  
(Chair of Governors)