

Tynewater Primary School

32 Crichton Road
Pathhead
Midlothian
EH37 5RA

Main Office:

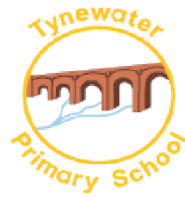
0131 271 4710

Email:

tynewater.ps@midlothian.gov.uk

Education Division

Head Teacher
Louise Ferguson

**Midlothian Council**

24th May 2024

Tynewater School Day Review

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you are aware our school day currently runs from 8.45-3.30pm on Mondays - Thursdays and 8.45-12.25pm on Fridays. We currently have a 50 minutes lunchbreak and an additional 15minute afternoon break. Our day is quite significantly longer than other primary schools in Midlothian and it is also very unusual to have an afternoon break in addition to the morning break and lunch.

Other schools in Midlothian have:

Lasswade PS - Monday to Thursday 8.50am - 3.20pm Friday 8.50am - 12.25pm

Cornbank St James PS - 8.50 am– 3.15 pm Mon to Thur and 8.50– 12.25 pm Fri

Rosewell PS – 8.50-3.15 Mon-Thurs and Fri 8.50-12.25pm

Lawfield PS – 8.50-3.20 Mon-Thurs and Fri 8.50-12.05pm

Teachers are contracted to work 35 hours per week – 30 of these are in school and 5 of these are 'balance time'- time allocated for teachers to attend training and engage in professional learning, attend parents evenings, write pupil reports etc. Currently with the structure of our asymmetric week, our children are in school for 30hours 40mins. Therefore to ensure teachers have their correct contracted working hours, this must change.

Our bus children currently get ready to leave 10 minutes before their peers to be on the bus and away at 3.30pm. This means they are missing learning time at the end of each day. If we all finish earlier, bus children can be in class until the end of the day and pack up with their peers to be on the bus for the same time making it more equitable for all.

Additionally, all five learning assistants currently supervise afternoon break for 15mins – this is 5 hours of Learning Assistant time per week that could be reallocated to support children's learning. Additionally, the time spent getting changed before and after this break results in approximately 25minutes of disrupted learning time each afternoon.

I am proposing that we do not have an afternoon break and instead change the end of our school day from 3.30pm to either:

- **3.20pm on Mondays-Thursday and keep Fridays as a 12.25pm pick up with a 50 minute lunch break**
- **3.15pm on Mondays-Thursday and keep Fridays as a 12.25pm pick up with a 45 minute lunch break**

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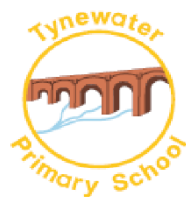
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This means that children will be in school for 30 hours per week, will allow teachers to have their full allocation of their planning time at the end of the school day and enable our bus children to remain in class until the end of the school day.

These plans will have no implication for rural transport buses or afterschool club.

Please follow the link or QR code below to indicate your preference of finish time. This survey will close on the 31st of May and confirmation of the agreed finish time will follow soon after. The change of time will come into effect as of the new session in August.

[Mentimeter Survey CLICK HERE](#)



If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards

Louise Ferguson

Head Teacher

Tynewater Primary School