

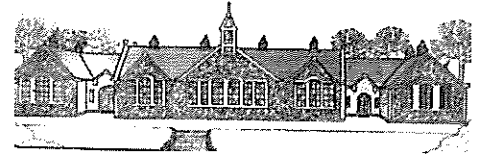


**DORNOCH  
ACADEMY**



**The Highland  
Council  
Comhairle na  
Gàidhealtachd**

***Dornoch Primary School***



Please ask for: Tina Stones  
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Your Ref:  
Our Ref: TS/CL  
Date: 20 March 2017

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

As you may be aware, all secondary schools in Highland will be changing to a 4.5 day week starting in June 2017. This is a Council decision but, as far as primary schools are concerned, any such changes are to be made on a local basis rather than any blanket Council move:

*"In relation to primary schools, there is no formal decision or mandate from the Council for a Highland wide change to a 4.5 day week. While the Council will endeavour to support such a change where practical, this would only be possible with clear local support, and the ability to manage transport implications without cost or other implications. School timings may of course also be influenced by local school transport arrangements."*

We are writing to you to ascertain your views on this, so that an informed argument can be put forward to the Council, based on the views and wishes of all stakeholders, as to which system should be employed in Bonar Bridge and Dornoch Primary Schools.

In order that you can reach your decision in an informed manner, please find below some reflections on how such a change might affect the primary schools.

#### **OPTION A (primary schools remain at five days a week)**

- Start of the day is altered by 10 minutes to begin at 8.40 am. This then ties in with the Academy start time and general bus arrivals.
- End of the day: Infants finish at 2.20 pm and P4-P7 finish at 2.50 pm (both 10 minutes earlier than present to compensate for the earlier start time).

Implications:

- An additional double bus run on three nights (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) as the Academy finishing time is 3.45 pm. Otherwise, being transported with the secondary pupils at 3.45 pm would necessitate a longer wait after school for primary children (infants 1 hour 20 mins and P4-P7 55 minutes). Alternatively, additional staff would be required to look after the bus pupils for this period.
- Minimal changes to primary lunches and after school care.
- Nursery sessions would remain unchanged.
- Car parking pressures if all pupils starting at 8.40 am.



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**Rector:** Tina Stones,  
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### OPTION B (4.5 day week, closing Friday pm)

New timetables for both Infants and P4-P7. Please note, these are for illustrative purposes and could vary somewhat.

Infants (class time 22.5 hours)

Monday - Thursday 8.40 am - 2.35 pm (20 minutes break and 50 minutes lunch)

Friday 8.40 am - 1.00 pm (incorporates a 50 minute break/lunch period)

P4-P7 (class time 25 hours)

Monday - Thursday 8.40 am - 3.10 pm (20 minutes break and 40 minutes lunch)

Friday 8.40 am - 1.00 pm (incorporates a 40 minute break/lunch period)

Implications:

- Longer afternoon sessions Monday - Thursday (infants - an additional five minutes per day, P4-P7 - an additional 10 minutes per day).
- Afternoons are already a challenging learning period as infant children, in particular, get tired more quickly.
- Pressure on after school childcare on Fridays. The school wishes the facility to remain open and, if the facility stays open, parents will be required to pay an additional 1.5 - 2 hours a week (from 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm) which is an additional cost to parents of Allsorts users of around £240 per child per year.
- Implications for bus pupils requiring after school care rurally.
- Two additional double bus runs required Wednesday and Thursday, otherwise primary bus pupils have to wait until 3.45 pm.
- Potential supervision issues in school.
- A 4.5 day week could also impact on the nursery sessions. Once again, for illustrative purposes, their week might look like this:  
am nursery Remains unchanged (3 hours 10 minutes per session)  
pm nursery Monday – Thursday 12.05 pm – 4.05 pm  
Friday No session

Please find attached a response sheet for you to complete. We would appreciate your comments and reflections on the options outlined above. Please complete and return to the respective primary school no later than Friday 24 March 2017.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Yours faithfully



Miss T Stones  
3-18 Rector  
Dornoch Academy



Mr L Bews  
Acting Head Teacher  
Dornoch Primary School



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Bonar Bridge Primary School/Dornoch Primary School

Session 2017/18

**IMPACT OF 4.5 DAY WEEK ON MY SCHOOL: PARENT RESPONSE SHEET**

Are you in favour of this change?	YES/NO
What points, positive or negative, would you liked passed on to the authority?	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

Name of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return completed form to the respective primary school no later than  
Friday 24 March 2017**