



**ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY & NURSERY
VOLUNTARY ACADEMY**

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Headteacher: Mrs T Lane

7th March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Changes to School Holidays

You may be aware that Nottinghamshire recently consulted on proposals to amend school holiday patterns to move to a 5 week summer holiday and a two week half term holiday in the Autumn term.

More than 57% of the 6,300 responses were in favour of the new pattern and the County Council has announced it will be adopted from September 2019. This new pattern will bring county schools in line with city schools. As academies, we are free to set our own holiday patterns, with the proviso that there are 195 working days, five of which are designated as INSET days. However, as members of the new Our Lady of Lourdes Multi-Academy Trust, I believe that it is important that our schools have the same holiday patterns.

In order to gauge opinion, I asked the headteachers to consult with staff and return a school preference of 'old', 'new' or 'no preference'.

The outcomes were:

Old	38% (8 schools)
New	52.5% (11 schools)
No preference	9.5% (2 schools)

Therefore, all schools in the Trust will be moving to the new pattern of holidays for the school year 2019-2020. Next year (2018-19) remains on the old pattern. You can access the details of the new holidays via the Nottinghamshire County Council website.

I realise that there are quite strong feelings about the holiday patterns and the pros and cons of both systems. I hope that you will understand the democratic approach I have taken. Adopting the new structure should ensure that families will not have 'split holidays', with all children off at the same time, regardless of which Catholic school they attend.

Yours faithfully

James McGeachie
CEO designate, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust