

Ask for: David Kilgallon
Email: David.kilgallon@walthamforest.gov.uk
Ref: DK/GK/KR
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Dear Colleagues

Extra bank holiday – Queen’s Platinum Jubilee

An extra bank holiday was announced for 3 June 2022 for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. In Waltham Forest, the school calendar for our maintained schools is agreed two years in advance to allow for appropriate planning. As with most schools in England, Waltham Forest’s maintained schools will be on half term at the time of the official bank holiday of 3 June 2022. The change to the Regulations as outlined above allows Waltham Forest to choose another date for schools to close to give staff and students an extra day off.

As on previous similar occasions (e.g. the 2012 Diamond Jubilee and 2011 Royal Wedding), the Department for Education (DfE) has amended the Education (School Day and School Year) (England) Regulations to reduce the school year 2021/22 for maintained schools to a minimum of 189 days. This allows schools to close on 3 June 2022 or on another day. The DfE has also amended the school teachers pay, and conditions document for 2021-22 to reduce the number of days that teachers must be available to work from 190 to 189 teaching days (+5 INSET days) and amended the 1265 hours of ‘directed time’ to 1258.5 hours for this year. This was to allow all schools or LA (whichever sets term dates) to identify another day of ‘holiday’ elsewhere in the year on which the school will be closed and staff given a day’s paid holiday should the 3 June fall in a half-term holiday.

We have decided to use Friday 15 July 2022 as the date for Waltham Forest’s maintained schools to use as the additional day off to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

This provides the longest lead-in time for planning, should not be impacted by any change in approach to school exams, and would allow schools/borough to celebrate the occasion as appropriate.

We would strongly encourage Academies to also use this date. This will provide consistency for parents and carers with children at multiple schools. We do however recognise that Academies are able to choose their own date.

We will soon update our school term dates on the LA website to reflect an extra day off for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. We will make clear that this is for maintained schools although we are recommending that Academies also use this date.

Thanks in advance, if you have any queries please contact Mark Joshi, Head of Admissions Commissioning - mark.joshi@walthamforest.gov.uk

Regards



Gerry Kemble
Assistant Director, Schools