

9<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please find attached the Term Dates and Holidays for the 2025/26 Academic year for Brookside Academy.

As you will see there are still 190 days of education provided. This is the same as we currently provide. The five additional days during the October break have been made up through changing how we use INSET days and changing the dates we break up during the year. We now propose to break up on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2026.

We have increasingly found that INSET days are taken over by statutory training - Safeguarding, Health and Safety and administration duties. This will be the focus of the two INSET days on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>. The other INSETs will move in to after school Twilight Training Sessions. This will give us year-round flexibility to train in key teaching and learning areas - including working alongside other trust schools sharing best practice.

You will also note that we will be closed on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026. (We understand that this is a Glastonbury fallow year, but it will break up that final long last term and allows us to ensure that we continue the practice in future years). This is a challenging date for us because of Glastonbury Friday. It is usually the lowest attended date of the calendar year (significantly so!) and many of our community through their lives outside of school either work at or attend the festival.

**To summarise:**

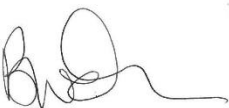
*There will be no lost days - children will continue to attend school for 190 days.*

*The days will be made up through less whole day INSETs during the year and very small changes to term dates. Twilight training sessions will be planned into the year through additional after school sessions focusing on teaching and learning.*

**Brookside Nursery operates on an ALL-Year round basis and therefore will remain open, except during pre-planned dates E.g. The Christmas holiday period (these dates can vary from year to year).**

We really welcome the flexibility to look at our Term Dates and try to make it work for our community. We really believe that the addition of a two-week break in October will have a positive impact on children's and adults' wellbeing. We also feel that less single day INSETs across the academic year and a more cohesive approach to term time will have an impact across Brookside that will enhance our teaching and learning provision for children. Thank you so much for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Brian Walton