THOMAS HARDING JUNIOR SCHOOL

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BUCKS SCHOOLS TRUST

Headteacher:
Mrs. S. Ruddell BAEd (Hons)

Date: 09/03/2026

Dear Parents/Carers

I trust you have received the letter from myself and the CEO of the ODBST regarding the confirmation that we will be joining with other trust schools in moving to a model of two week October half term next academic year. This will be inline with both our main feeder infant (Elmtree) and senior school (Chiltern Hills).

As a reminder, the children will still receive the same amount of days in school they always did, these will just be spread out slightly differently throughout the year. Staff are also still required to attend 5 inset days outside of these term dates which are listed below.

Term dates for academic year 26/27

Autumn Term 2026
Starts: Wednesday 2 September 2026
Half-term: Monday 19 October to Friday 30 October 2026
Ends: Friday 18 December 2026
Christmas holiday: Monday 21 December 2026 to Friday 1 January 2027

Spring Term 2027
Starts: Monday 4 January 2027
Half-term: Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February 2027
Ends: Thursday 25 March 2027
Easter holiday: Friday 26 March to Friday 9 April 2027

Summer Term 2027
Starts: Monday 12 April 2027
Half-term: Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June 2027
Ends: Thursday 22 July 2027
Summer holiday begins: Friday 23 July 2027

Inset dates for staff: 1st September 26, 19th October 26, 9th April 27, 23rd July 27, plus an additional 3x Twlight Sessions (one per term).

I appreciate that this is a significant change and although feedback was largely positive, may come with concerns and differing level of inconvenience for some families. Please do reach out to either myself or Mrs Butler (Interim Headteacher from after Easter) if there is anything that we can do to support you and your family. We are currently looking into provision for a holiday club to cover the additional week at October and will get back to you as soon as possible about the arrangements for this.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Ruddell