

Our Ref: FR/VE Day 2020
Direct Line: 01620 827834
Email: frobertson@eastlothian.gov.uk

14 November 2019

To: All parents/carers of pupils in East Lothian Schools

Dear Parent/Carer

VE Day – 75th Anniversary Celebrations – Friday 8 May 2020

The UK Government has approved a change to the date of next year's early May bank holiday from Monday 4th May to Friday 8th May 2020 to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

8th May 1945 was the day that peace was declared in Europe after nearly six years of war and the 75th anniversary on 8 May 2020 represents an important milestone in the history of the UK. National celebrations of VE Day 75 are being led by the Pageantmaster with three days of commemorations planned throughout the UK from Friday 8th May to Sunday 10th May 2020.

East Lothian Council does not have a universal fixed holiday in May so there is no opportunity to move any existing May holiday for all council staff. Schools are in a different position as the Education Service has already published term times for East Lothian Schools for 2019/20 showing a range of holidays including Monday 4th May 2020.

The Council is committed to marking the occasion and considered a range of options to do so at Full Council, 29th October 2019. A copy of the report can be accessed [with this link](#).

Following discussion and consideration the Council took a decision to approve Option E being to recognise Friday 8 May 2020 as an **additional one-off leave day**. In agreeing this option it was requested that Parents/Carers be consulted on their views regarding an additional day's school closure on Friday 8th May 2020. Permission will have to be sought from Scottish Government for exceptional closure of schools on this day. The school calendar will also have to be adjusted accordingly if approval is granted. This additional school closure day will not impact on any young person sitting national qualifications in our schools, 4 May 2020.

The purpose of the curriculum is to enable a child or young person to develop as a responsible citizen and gain an understanding of the attributes and capabilities of a responsible citizen. Curriculum for Excellence, Social Studies, Experiences and Outcomes set out the knowledge and skills that can be developed through having an understanding of our history and the people, places and events that have influenced our local and national heritage. The additional school closure day provides an opportunity for families, children and young people to participate, if they wish to do so, in local and national VE Day 75 celebrations bringing life to learning and learning to life.

In line with our statutory duties, the Education Service is seeking your views on the proposed additional closure day prior to submitting an application to do so to the Scottish Government. Can you

please complete the questionnaire to indicate your views on this matter, the closing date being 6th December 2019. The questionnaire is available on the Council's Consultation Hub and can be accessed [with this link](#).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona Robertson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F'.

Fiona Robertson
Head of Education and Children's Services