

## Monthly Matter: January

School Calendar Consultation – session outline for children and young people with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

### Information for facilitator

This month's matter is focusing on the Welsh Government's proposals to amend school term dates.

Our office will be responding to this and we would like to include the voices of children, young people and the adults who support them within our consultation response to Welsh Government.

Activity	Differentiation supporting PMLD learners	Supporting learners in a group work activity	Extra resources / additional information
Start the session by reminding children about their Safe Space guide.	Use visual prompt of the safe space guide to remind children.  Take time to revisit the key points.	Use visual prompt of the safe space guide to remind children.  Take time to revisit the key points.	If you haven't created one yet, we have <a href="#">a guide for creating a safe space here.</a>
Show children <a href="#">this video</a> to start the session.	<b>Alongside the video, you could use the following prompts:</b>  "This is Rocio. Rocio has an important job.  Her job is to make sure that all children in Wales grow up	<b>Alongside the video, you could use the following prompts:</b>  "This is Rocio. Rocio has an important job.	

	<p>feeling happy, healthy and safe.</p> <p>Rocio wants to know what you think about the dates of the school holiday”</p> <p>Share <a href="#">Social Story about Rocio.</a></p> <p><b>Sensory stimuli:</b></p> <p>Vanilla scent, this links to Rocio’s Chilean roots.</p> <p>Feet in sand or noises of the beach/ familiar holiday noises (children may have a holiday song). This is linked to the Welsh Government Consultation.</p>	<p>Her job is to make sure that all children in Wales grow up feeling happy, healthy and safe.</p> <p>Rocio wants to know what you think about the dates of the school holiday ”</p> <p><a href="#">Share Social Story about Rocio.</a></p>	
<p>Hold a discussion</p>	<p><i>“Rocio wants to know what you like and don’t like about the</i></p>		<p><i>Please note: There is a box in the survey for you to add any</i></p>

<p>Ask young people to share their views and work together to create a list of likes and dislikes.</p> <p><b>Ideas for the discussion:</b> You could try the following ideas to support the discussion.</p> <p><b>Use this survey to share the children and young people's thoughts</b></p>	<p><i>long break in the summer holidays."</i></p> <p><i>Show symbol for like and don't like.</i></p> <p><i>Use these <u>widgits</u> to help aide discussions with pupils.</i></p>	<p><i>"Rocio wants to know what you like and don't like about the long break in the summer holidays."</i></p> <p><i>Show symbol for like and don't like.</i></p> <p>Using the <u>symbol supported question</u>.</p> <p>Read it out to the group.</p> <p>Ask the group to make a decision, this could be by raising their hand, moving to be near their preferred answer or using the symbols to support their ideas.</p>	<p><i>observations as an adult working with children.</i></p>
<p>Finish the session by reminding pupils that we will feedback an</p>	<p>Use a familiar close to finish the session. This might be an activity or a song.</p>	<p>Use a familiar close to finish the session. This might be an activity or a song.</p>	<p>You may want to remind pupils of their Safe Space and remind them who they</p>

update at the start of next month.			can speak to in school if they feel worried.
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### Link to Welsh Government Consultation

We would also encourage all young people to take part in the Welsh Government consultation.

You can find the consultation (which close on 13/02/24) and easy read documents here.

These links will allow young people to fully consider the proposals and to respond directly to the Welsh Government:

- [gov.wales/schoolyear](https://gov.wales/schoolyear)
- [llyw.cymru/flwyddynysgol](https://llyw.cymru/flwyddynysgol)