Term Dates 2027-2028

For the reasons listed below our term dates in 2027-2028 will follow a slightly different pattern. This is a one year trial. The impact of this change will be reviewed throughout the year to inform 2028-2029 term dates.

Please note:

- **The number of teaching days are unchanged from previous years.**
- **The amount of learning time has not changed.**
- **Staff are still required to attend work the same amount of contracted time.**

Benefits of a two week half term break during the Autumn Term

1. **Decrease pupil sickness absence:**
   Evidence from schools where a two week half term has been implemented has resulted in a decrease in pupil absence due to illness. We know from the pandemic the positive impact of a "firebreak" to minimise the spread of winter viruses.
2. **Decrease in pupil absence due to holidays:**
   Some families choose to or have to take holidays together in term time. Having a two week half term means this is not necessary. Pupils absent in term time due to holidays will continue to have that absence recorded as unauthorised.
3. **Decrease in staff absence:**
   For the same reason as above staff absence due to illness has also reduced. Staff absence due to caring for their ill children during this time has also reduced in those schools that have implemented this change.
4. **Provision of family holiday opportunities:**
   Many of the families in the communities we serve work in the agricultural and or hospitality industries meaning holidays as a family are not possible during the summer break. Having a two week half term may provide the opportunity for some families to spend holidays together.
5. **Access to cheaper holidays for families:**
   Although it is likely that holiday companies will increase their October prices, as two week half terms breaks become more common, cheaper holidays are still more likely during this time.
6. **Wellbeing:**
   Schools who have implemented a two week Autumn half term also report higher levels of pupil and staff wellbeing and effectiveness at school due to the longer break.
7. **Alignment with other schools:**
   Several schools across primary and secondary phases close to this school already implement a two week half term. During these periods there has been a drop in attendance of approximately 5% in our schools. For every class of 30 this is the equivalent of 1.5 hours of learning time lost per pupil. Greater alignment will support negating this.
8. **Additional staff training time:**
   Many of our support staff are employed for term time plus 1 week. Rather than amend staff contracts we have opted to implement additional staff training to support them in supporting children. This additional training time will focus on supporting pupils with the increasing range and complexity of special educational needs within our schools alongside collaborative work across our schools.

9. **Split weeks**
   With the changes we are trailing this year there is also a reduction in the number of “split weeks” when pupils are only be expected to be in school for part of that week. There is clear evidence that split weeks result in poorer attendance for that week.

Compromises

We recognise that whatever decisions are made we cannot provide the optimum arrangement for every family. We do believe that the model in 2027-2028 will benefit pupils by supporting them to attend school more often, benefitting from quality teaching, support and also socially by spending time with their friends.

As always with term date changes there are compromises and we fully recognise that alignment with some schools will result in greater misalignment with others. We recognise that these changes may result in improved or more difficult childcare arrangements for some. For staff there are additional after school training sessions and of course potential implications within their own families including childcare and after school commitments.

In planning the term dates we have considered all the evidence at our disposal including discussions with other Trusts and schools who are continuing to have a two week half term Autumn break in 2027-2028.

Term dates for 2028-2029 will be confirmed shortly after the Autumn half term break in 2027 when an informed review of these benefits and compromises have been considered.

Term Dates 2027-2028

Note: The number of teaching days remains unchanged from previous years
The amount of learning time remains unchanged from previous years
The change to a two week half term is a trial for one year. Term dates for 28-29 will be confirmed late October 2027, following a review these changes.

September 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2027						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2027						
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29	30					

December 2027						
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27	28	29	30	31		

January 2028						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2028						
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15	22	23	24	25	26	27
22	29					

March 2028						
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27	28	29	30	31		

April 2028						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 2028						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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29	30	31				

June 2028						
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26	27	28	29	30		

July 2028						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2028						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Staff training days | Staff training evenings | Bank Holidays | School Holidays