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**Consultation on proposal for school term dates for the academic year 2025-26**

**18 September 2023 – 17 December 2023**

Introduction

This is Medway Council's consultation on 2025-26 school term and holiday dates. Medway Council produce guideline term dates in advance and consult with schools to gauge preferences.

We base our dates on the guidelines from the Local Government Association, and the recommendations from the Southeast Authorities. We consider feedback from previous years, especially on the timing of the Christmas and Easter breaks. We also look at Kent County Council’s published dates. The most important factors in producing dates are the implications on teaching and learning.

We are consulting on two options for the academic year 2025-2026.

The two sets of dates meet the published guidelines with some slight differences. Option 1 starts the academic year on a Monday, and finishes the year on a Tuesday, while Option 2 starts on a Wednesday and ends on a Friday. Options 1 and 2 have the February half-term as the third week in February. This gives a more even split between terms 3 and 4, which is often the preference for schools. Option 2 has one extra day for the Christmas break compared to Option 1, but both meet the guideline 2-week break.

Kent County Council have not yet consulted on their term dates for 2024-25.

Table - Option 1 (calendar shown in appendix 1)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Term | Start | Finish | Length | Notes |
| Term 1 | Mon 1 Sep | Fri 17 Oct | 35 days | Option 2 starts 3 Sep |
| Autumn break 2025 | Mon 20 Oct | Fri 24 Oct | 5 days |  |
| Term 2 | Mon 27 Oct | Fri 19 Dec | 40 days | Option 2 ends 18 Dec |
| Christmas break 2025 | Mon 22 Dec | Fri 2 Jan | 12 days |  |
| Term 3 | Mon 5 Jan | Fri 13 Feb | 30 days |  |
| February Break 2026 | Mon 16 Feb | Fri 20 Feb | 5 days |  |
| Term 4 | Mon 23 Feb | Thu 2 Apr | 29 days |  |
| Easter break 2026 | Mon 6 Apr | Fri 17 Apr | 12 days |  |
| Term 5 | Mon 20 Apr | Fri 22 May | 24 days |  |
| Late spring break 2026 | Mon 25 May | Fri 29 May | 5 days |  |
| Term 6 | Mon 1 Jun | Tue 21 Jul | 37 days | Option 2 ends 24 Jul |
| Total |  |  | 195 days |  |

Table - Option 2 (calendar shown in appendix 2)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Term | Start | Finish | Length | Notes |
| Term 1 | Wed 3 Sep | Fri 17 Oct | 33 days | Option 1 starts 1 Sep |
| Autumn break 2025 | Mon 20 Oct | Fri 24 Oct | 5 days |  |
| Term 2 | Mon 27 Oct | Thu 18 Dec | 39 days | Option 1 ends 19 Dec |
| Christmas break 2025 | Fri 19 Dec | Fri 2 Jan | 15 days |  |
| Term 3 | Mon 5 Jan | Fri 13 Feb | 30 days |  |
| February Break 2026 | Mon 16 Feb | Fri 20 Feb | 5 days |  |
| Term 4 | Mon 23 Feb | Thu 2 Apr | 29 days |  |
| Easter break 2026 | Mon 6 Apr | Fri 17 Apr | 12 days |  |
| Term 5 | Mon 20 Apr | Fri 22 May | 24 days |  |
| Late spring break 2026 | Mon 25 May | Fri 29 May | 5 days |  |
| Term 6 | Mon 1 Jun | Fri 24 Jul | 40 days | Option 2 ends 21 Jul |
| Total |  |  | 195 days |  |

The suggested calendars are for 195 days in total. Pupils attend for 190 days, and schools choose five of the 195 as staff development days, when pupils do not attend.

As with previous years, we would like one combined response from each governing body and its associated school. Please respond using the response sheet at the end of this consultation document by 17 December 2023.

Responses will be collated at the end of the consultation period and the outcomes reported to the Director of People - Children and Adult Services for determination. Schools will be advised of the outcome, and the approved dates will be published on the Medway Council website during the spring of 2024.

Appendix 1 – Option 1 – 2025-26 Academic Year

A calendar view of the information shown in Table 1

Appendix 2 – Option 2 – 2025-26 Academic Year

A calendar view of the information shown in Table 2

Consultation on term and holiday dates for 2025-26

This consultation will close on 17 December 2023.

We are making this consultation available to all headteachers and governors for their views. However, we would like a single combined response from each governing body and its associated schools. If you do not like the suggested dates, please be positive about suggesting alternatives.

We prefer option 1.

We prefer option 2.

We are unhappy with the suggested dates and would like to propose the following alternative:

Signed……………………………………………………Chair of Governors

Governing body/school……………………………………………………….

Please return to:

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