

Changes to the school year

What do you think?



Easy
Read



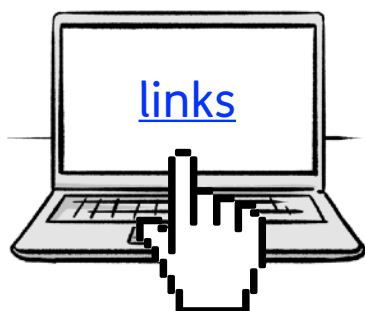
Cheshire West
and Chester

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In this Easy Read document, hard words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after we have used them.



Some words are [blue and underlined](#).

These are links that will go to another website which has more information.

About this booklet



Cheshire West and Chester Council is thinking about changing the dates of the school year.



We want to make sure **school terms** start on dates that are good for families and schools.

School terms are when schools are open. There are 3 terms, in the autumn, spring and summer.



We would like to know what you think of our plans.



Please read this information and answer the questions.

The school year



The council is in charge of when school terms begin and end. These dates are called term dates.

This is only for:

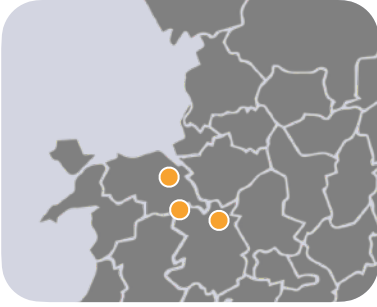


- Community schools. These are schools run by the council.

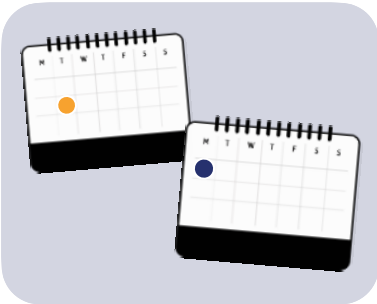


- Voluntary Controlled schools. These are schools where another organisation, like the church, helps run the school.

Why change?



Some of our schools are close to other areas, like Flintshire, Wrexham and Shropshire.



School terms in those areas begin and end on different dates to school terms in our area.



Some schools in our area would like to have the same term dates as schools in the other areas.

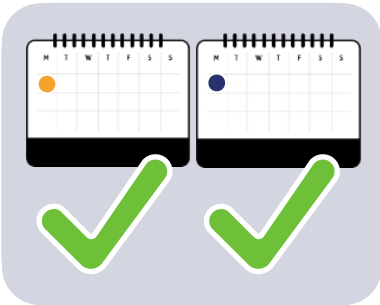


This is because it can be difficult for parents, carers and teachers when nearby schools open and close on different dates.

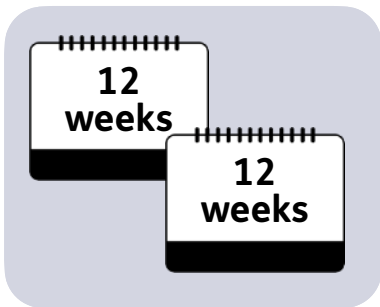
The changes mean:



- Primary, secondary and special schools all have the same term dates.



- Schools have the same term dates as other schools in nearby areas.



- Terms are closer to being the same length as each other.



- Children miss less school.



- It will be easier for families, carers and teachers to plan ahead.



We have some ideas for different term dates.



We want to start with the new term dates in September 2024.

Tell us what you think



We want to know what you think about our ideas for changes.



We will use your answers to help us decide whether to make these changes.



You can tell us what you think until 3 May 2023.

You can tell us what you think by:



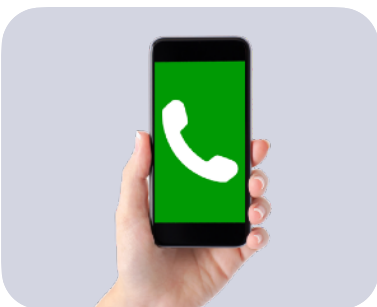
- Filling in this Easy Read survey and emailing it to us at:
schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



- Getting a paper copy of the Easy Read survey to fill in. You can get it by:



- Email:
schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



- Phone: 0300 123 7738

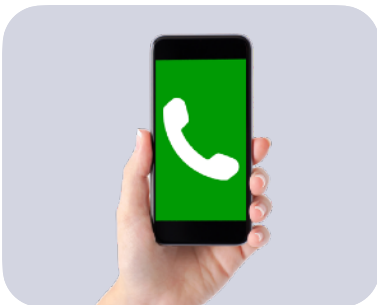
You can also tell us what you think by:



- Emailing us at:
schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



- Writing to us at:
Standardised School Year Consultation
FOA School Organisation
Floor 1
The Portal Ellesmere Port
Wellington Road
Ellesmere Port
CH65 0BA



- Calling us on: 0300 123 7738



If you call us, please say you are calling about 'Standardised School Year Consultation'.

About you



If you are under 16, your parent, **guardian** or teacher needs to say you can take part in this survey.

A **guardian** is a person who looks after you, but is not your parent.



Question 1a: Are you under 16?

☐

Yes

☐

No



Question 1b: If you are under 16, does your parent, guardian or teacher say you can take part in this survey?

☐

Yes

☐

No



Question 1c: Please say whether you are a parent, guardian or **responsible adult**.

A **responsible adult** is a person like a teacher who can look after a child under 16.

☐

Parent

☐

Guardian

☐

Responsible adult



Question 2: What is your email address?

The changes we want to make

October half term



At the moment, October half term is always the last full week of October.



We would like to change this.



We would like October half term to be the week that starts with the last Monday of October.



This means it might be a week later than it is now in some years.



Question 3a: Do you agree with this change?

☐

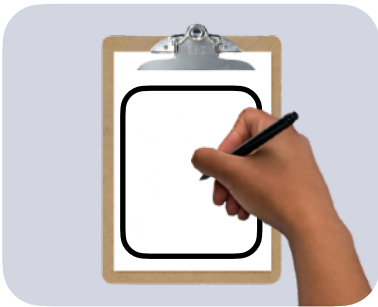
Yes

☐

No

☐

Not sure

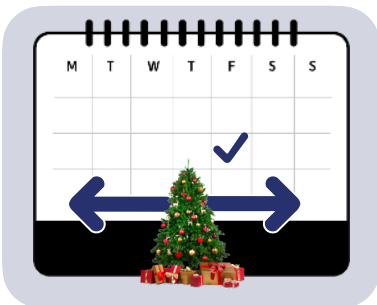


Question 3b: Why do you think that?

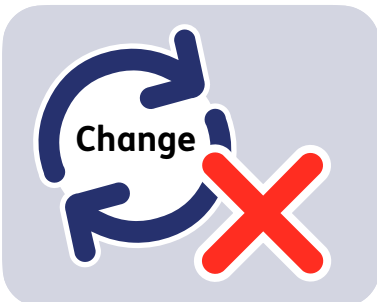
Christmas and New Year



At the moment, schools close in the middle of December for 2 weeks for Christmas.



We would like schools to close in the week right before Christmas, and open on the 2nd week of January.



There will be no change until after 2026.



Question 4a: Do you agree with this change to Christmas holidays?

☐

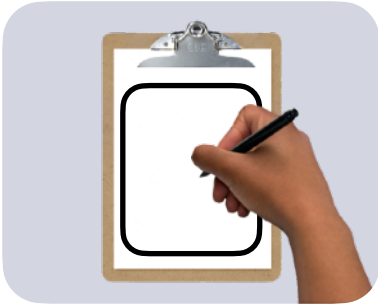
Yes

☐

No

☐

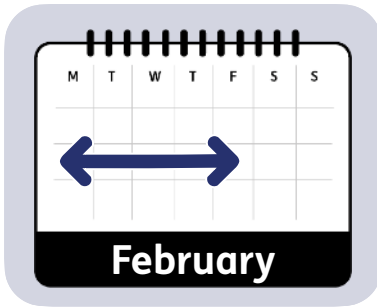
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Question 4b: Why do you think that?

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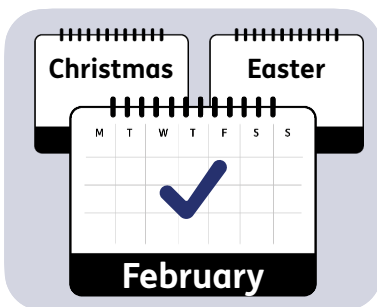
February half term



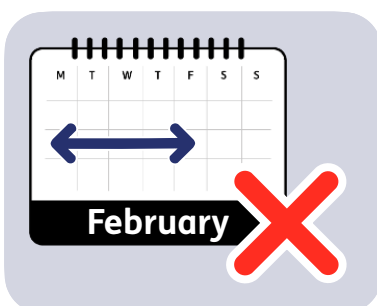
At the moment, February half term is always the third full week in February.



We would like to change this.



We would like February half term to be in the middle of the time between Christmas and Easter.



This means it might sometimes not be on the third week of February.



Question 5a: Do you agree with this change?

☐

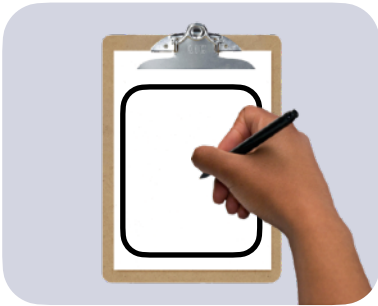
Yes

☐

No

☐

Not sure



Question 5b: Why do you think that?

Easter break

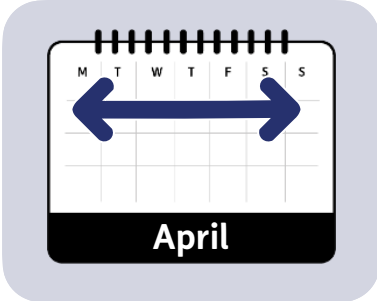


Easter break is a school holiday around Easter.



We will change its name to the Spring break.

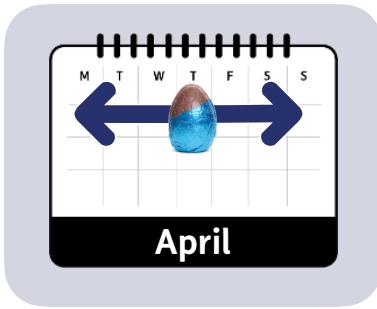
At the moment:



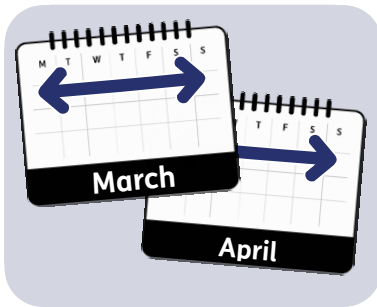
- Easter break is always the first 2 full weeks in April.



- Schools close for Good Friday and Easter Monday, if they are not in the first 2 full weeks in April.



We want to change this, so that Easter always happens during the Spring break.



This might mean that the Spring break is in different weeks in April, or March.



Question 6a: Do you agree with this change?

☐

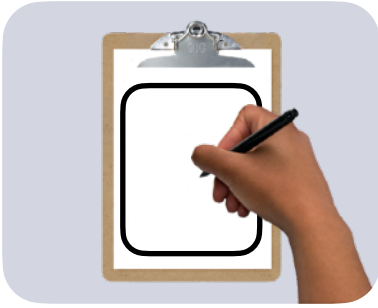
Yes

☐

No

☐

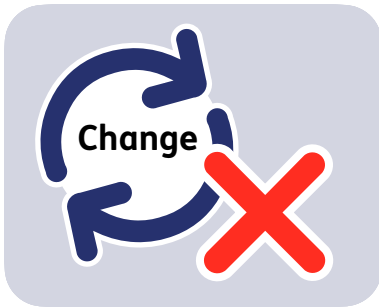
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Question 6b: Why do you think that?

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Where there will be no change



Here are the term dates that we do not want to change:

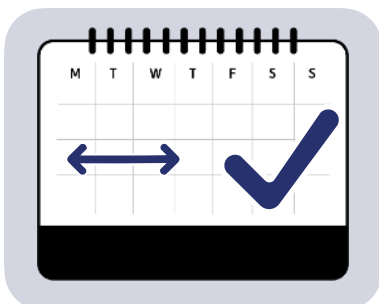


- All terms will carry on starting on a Monday.

Sometimes, term will start on a Tuesday instead, if there has been a bank holiday.



- The summer half term will carry on being 1 week, and include the late May bank holiday.



- If school is not open for a full week, it will be open for at least 3 days.

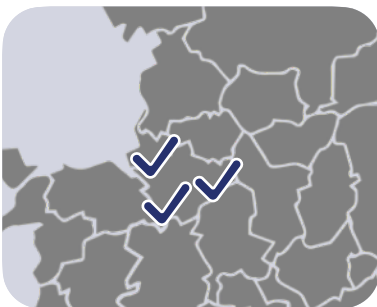
Inset days



Inset days are days where schools close so that teachers can get training.



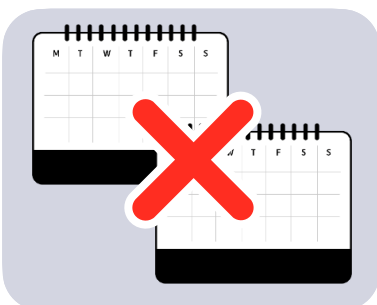
Schools will carry on being in charge of choosing when they have inset days.



We will ask schools in the same local area to have the same inset days.



This will help families who have children in 2 different schools.



But we cannot make different schools have the same inset days.



Question 7a: Do you agree with this change to inset days?

☐

Yes

☐

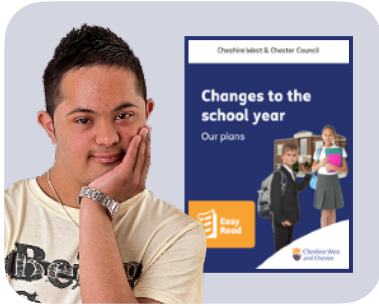
No

☐

Not sure



Question 7b: Why did you answer this way?



Question 8: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about our plans?

About you



We would like to know some more about you.



This will help us understand how different people think different things.



You do not have to answer these questions.



Question 9: Are you taking part in this survey because you are...?

Please tick all boxes that are right for you.

☐

A parent or carer of a child in primary school.

☐

A parent or carer of a child in secondary school.

☐

A parent or carer of a child under 4.

☐

Someone who works at a school

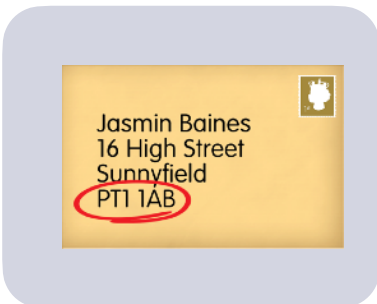
☐

Other (please say)



Question 10: Which school:

- Does your child go to, or
- Do you work at?



Question 11: What is your post code?

We will not share this with anyone.

The school year from 2025 to 2026



If we make these changes, this is what the school year will be from 2025 to 2026:



Autumn 2025

In autumn 2025:

- Schools will be open from Monday 1 September to Friday 24 October.
- Schools will close for autumn half term, from Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October.
- Schools will be open from Monday 3 November to Friday 19 December.
- Schools will close for Christmas and New Year, from Monday 22 December to Friday 2 January.



Spring 2026

In spring 2026:

- Schools will be open from Monday 5 January to Friday 13 February.
- Schools will close for half term, from Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February.
- Schools will be open from Monday 23 February to Wednesday 1 April.
- Schools will close for Spring break, from Thursday 2 April to Friday 17 April.



Summer 2026

In summer 2026:

- Schools will be open from Monday 20 April to Friday 22 May.
- Schools will close for half term, from Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May.
- Schools will be open from Monday 1 June to Wednesday 22 July.
- Schools will close for summer holidays, from Thursday 23 July to Monday 31 August.
- Schools will open again on Tuesday 2 September 2026.

Find out more



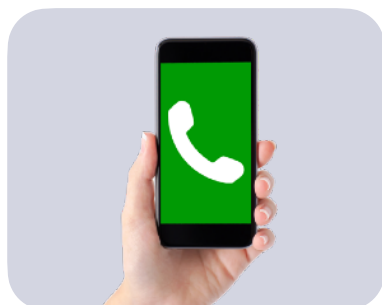
You can look at our website here:

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/standardschoolyear

If you need more information please contact us by:



- Post:
Standardised School Year
Consultation
FOA School Organisation
Floor 1
The Portal Ellesmere Port
Wellington Road
Ellesmere Port
CH65 0BA



- Phone: 0300 123 7738



- Email:
schoolplanningandpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk