

Title of Report:	Term and Holiday Dates 2020/21
Report to be considered by:	Ian Pearson, Head of Education Services & EMAB
Date of Report:	1/03/2019

Purpose of Report:	To agree the proposed term and holiday dates 2020/21 following consultation
Recommended Action:	To approve the proposed term and holiday dates for 2020/21

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Report

1. Introduction

After discussion with our neighbouring authorities a draft calendar of term and holiday dates for 2020/21 was prepared and considered by Ian Pearson with comments requested from EMAB. As we have aligned dates with our neighbouring authorities it is not expected that there will be any cross border difficulties.

2. Consultation

The consultation ran from 7 January 2019 to 24 February 2019. The consultation was published on the West Berkshire Council consultation finder section of the website making it publicly available for responses. The consultation was also emailed to the following stakeholders:

- All Headteachers (including academies)
- Newbury College
- Portsmouth Catholic Diocese
- Unison
- Parish Councils

West Berkshire provides the term and holiday dates framework for maintained schools.

The framework covers 191 days, which is comprised of 190 “pupil days” and one common training day in September. Schools must set four training days from outside of the “pupil days”.

The Council recommends that schools consider aligning term dates with other schools in the area, for example, secondary schools with primary schools, in recognition of families with children at different schools.

3. Responses

16 responses were received in total: Agree = 7 Disagree = 9

12 respondents submitted comments for consideration.

- Consistency across schools , easier for working parents
- If possible a different half term week to other schools in October would be beneficial.
- I do not understand why the school holidays cannot include the bank holidays as part of a whole week and not just as an odd day. For example, going back straight after the August bank holiday. Anyone who does not work in a school and has four weeks holiday plus bank holidays would want to take a week's holiday on a bank holiday week so that they can maximise their days off. The same with Easter. They do not want to have to take a week and then have an odd day the next week. This applies to both parents of school age children and partners/spouses of people who work in schools. Other people have to book their holidays and if there is only one week with a bank holiday at Easter, those who need to take holiday in the school holidays, will all want the same week, which means some will have to miss out. It makes childcare more difficult for parents.
- We have consulted with Aldermaston Primary School and they are happy with the dates.
- Proposed term dates allow no flexibility for schools to undertake staff training. Schools are being forced to either set training dates during holiday times which are just as important for school staff as they are parents, or they have to undertake twilight sessions. Twilight sessions do not offer quality days for staff training.
- I would rather not have an inset day in October and would like to decide where this is placed independently.
- There are no obvious INSET days that can be taken without impacting on half term weeks. The Summer term could be extended further and INSETs allowed to be taken from school days.
- Moving the Easter break so that the Easter weekend is in the middle releases a day for one of the INSET days without having to change another week or hit a repeated day of the week for disruption. Ending the term later in the summer will open days for INSET without taking them out of the shorter breaks. These are two suggestions that create greater flexibility on dates without hitting the full weeks in half and end of term holidays which always cause an issue regarding childcare for staff.
- I don't agree with West Berkshire fixing another INSET day on 23rd Oct. I think schools should have the flexibility to set the remaining 4 INSET days according to their context and circumstances
- The term dates as they stand are understandable given where the dates fall. However, setting three further INSET days in school is very difficult indeed. Beyond the Autumn Term, the holidays are either very late or early and setting further days break up weeks - in many cases a full week or 2 weeks, which people need to book weeks away. I can see that Summer starts a little earlier; as I school, choosing 3 INSET days at the end of the school year, when the other two are in the autumn term is ludicrous. If Training days are indeed for training, this is almost unworkable.
- It would make managing a work/life balance simpler for the vast majority if schools aligned with the working week consistently. I note this appears more closely aligned across the proposal than in previous years, which is encouraging. Please consider this as a default position in future.

- If bank holidays are not included in a whole week, parents may just take their children on holiday anyway that week, resulting in more absence from school.
- We feel it would be better to extend the final day of the academic year into the w/c 19th July by 3 days and allow schools to have training days at the beginning of the terms.
- All other dates look acceptable.
- Only wish the return to school after Christmas was later
- Denefield will be following these term dates.

The data is available at Appendix B to this report.

4. Neighbouring Local Authorities

Proposed term dates were received from Hampshire, Reading, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire Local Authorities.

A comparison table is available in Appendix C. Our neighbouring authorities all set 195 school days which includes the training days which is why they end Term 6 later but all other term dates are broadly in line (given that the number of days set varies by LA).

5. Consideration of Comments

The comments were considered by Ian Pearson and EMAB on 28 February 2019.

We could extend Term 6 but we would then need to add holidays earlier in the year. If we ended Term 6 on Tuesday 20 July schools could do training on Monday 4 January and Thursday 1 April. Alternatively, they could do training at the beginning or end of the school summer holidays.

6. Recommendation

As a result of the consultation and discussion with EMAB, it is recommended that:

- The calendar of dates (as at Appendix A) is approved.

APPENDIX A – Proposed Term Dates for 2020/21

September 2020						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	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 2020						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			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	31	

November 2020						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						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						

December 2020						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	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	31			

January 2021						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				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	31

February 2021						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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

March 2021						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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	31				

April 2021						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			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		

May 2021						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					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
31						

June 2021						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	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				

July 2021						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			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	31	

Public Holiday						
School Holiday						
Fixed INSET day						

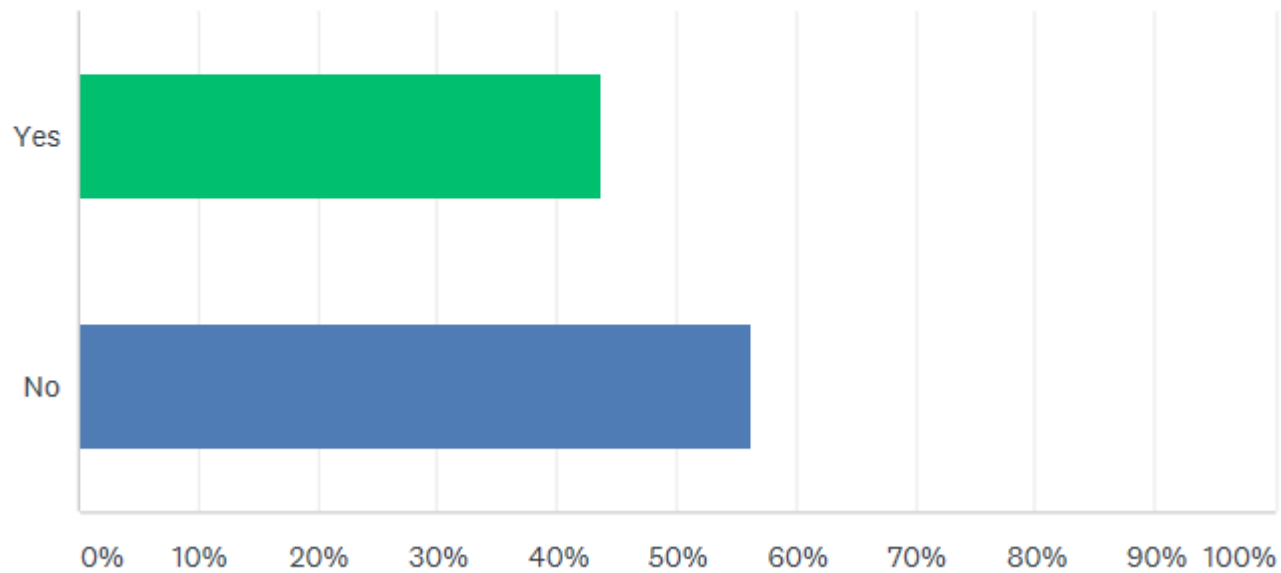
APPENDIX B – CONSULTATION RESPONSES DATA

Q1



Do you agree with the proposed term and holiday dates?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 0



APPENDIX C – COMPARISON

	West Berkshire	Hampshire	Reading	Oxfordshire	Wiltshire
Term 1	02/09/20 – 22/10/20 37 days	03/09/20 – 23/10/20 37 days	02/09/20 – 23/10/20 38 days	02/09/20 - 23/10/20 38 days	01/09/20 - 23/10/20 39 days
Term 2	02/11/20 – 18/12/20 35 days	02/11/20 – 18/12/20 35 days	02/11/20 – 18/12/20 35 days	02/11/20 – 18/12/20 35 days	02/11/20 – 18/12/20 35 days
Term 3	05/01/21 – 12/02/21 29 days	04/01/21 – 12/02/21 30 days	04/01/21 – 12/02/21 30 days	04/01/21 – 12/02/21 30 days	04/01/21 – 12/02/21 30 days
Term 4	22/02/21 – 31/03/21 28 days	22/02/21 – 01/04/21 29 days	22/02/21 – 01/04/21 29 days	22/02/21 – 31/03/21 28 days	22/02/21 – 01/04/21 29 days
Term 5	19/04/21 – 28/05/21 29 days	19/04/21 – 28/05/21 29 days	19/04/21 – 28/05/21 29 days	19/04/21 – 28/05/21 29 days	19/04/21 – 28/05/21 29 days
Term 6	07/06/21 – 20/07/21 32 days	07/06/21 – 23/07/21 35 days	07/06/21 – 21/07/21 33 days	07/06/21 – 22/07/21 34 days	07/06/21 – 21/07/21 33 days
Total	190 days	195 days	194 days	194 days	195 days

West Berkshire dates:

190 “pupil days” set, plus 1 September as a training day. Schools to select 4 further training days from outside of these dates. This brings the total to the required 195 days. Suggested training days are 23 Oct, 4 January and 1 April.

Hampshire dates:

195 school days set. This is 190 “pupil days” plus 5 training dates. This brings the total to the required 195 days.

Reading dates:

194 school days set, plus 1 September as a training day. This brings the total to the required 195 days.

Oxfordshire dates:

194 school days set, plus 1 Sept as training day. This brings the total to the required 195 days.

Wiltshire dates:

195 school days set. This is 190 “pupil days” plus 5 training dates. This brings the total to the required 195 days.