Individual Decision

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The attached report will be taken as Individual Portfolio Member Decision on:

Tuesday 20 October 2026

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Proposed term dates – 2027/28 academic year.

Committee considering report:	Individual Executive Member Decisions
Date of Committee:	20 October 2026
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Heather Codling
Report Author:	Nick Winter
Forward Plan Ref:	ID4834

1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the findings of the consultation on the proposed term and holiday dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, community special schools and maintained nursery schools for the 2027/28 academic year and to seek agreement on the proposed option.

2 Recommendations

2.1 To agree to the implementation of option 2 which aligns West Berkshire with a greater number of neighbouring authorities. This reflects the consultation evidence, which identified significant cross-border links with Reading, Wokingham and Oxfordshire and a desire amongst many respondents to minimise differences in school holiday patterns across those areas.

2.2 While Option 3 received the highest number of individual responses, the combined support for Options 1 and 2 indicates a stronger overall preference for retaining broadly current arrangements rather than introducing a two-week October half term.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	N/A.
Human Resource:	N/A
Legal:	N/A

Risk Management:	N/A			
Property:	N/A			
Policy:	Nationally, Local Authorities are required to set term dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools			
	Positive	**Neutral**	**Negative**	**Commentary**
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?				N/A
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?				N/A
Environmental Impact:				N/A
Health Impact:				N/A
ICT Impact:				N/A
Digital Services Impact:				N/A
Council Strategy Priorities:				Business as usual.

Core Business:				Business as usual.
Data Impact:				N/A
Consultation and Engagement:	Schools and parents			

4 Executive Summary

4.1 A public consultation was undertaken on proposed term and holiday dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, community special schools and maintained nursery schools in West Berkshire for the 2027/28 academic year. A total of 330 responses were received from parents, carers, school staff, governors and other stakeholders. Respondents were asked to select one of three options:

4.2 Option 1: Align with Hampshire and Wiltshire (86 responses, 26.1%)

4.3 Option 2: Align with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham (105 responses, 31.8%)

4.4 Option 3: Introduce a two-week October half term (139 responses, 42.1%)

4.5 Whilst Option 3 received the highest number of individual responses, analysis of the consultation comments indicates that the consultation was not a simple three-way choice. Respondents supporting Options 1 and 2 consistently expressed the same underlying preference: to retain a one-week October half term and align term dates with neighbouring authorities, with their choice between Options 1 and 2 largely determined by local family, childcare, employment and schooling connections.

4.6 The most significant and consistent theme across the consultation was opposition to a two-week October half term. Many respondents stated explicitly that they supported either Option 1 or Option 2, provided Option 3 was not adopted. Concerns centred on the impact on working families, including increased childcare costs, limited holiday entitlement, reduced availability of childcare provision and practical difficulties for households with children attending schools in different authorities. Particular concerns were raised regarding the impact on single-parent families, school staff and families of children with SEND.

4.7 Supporters of Option 3 tended to cite a different set of benefits, including improved wellbeing, opportunities for longer and potentially cheaper family holidays, reduced pressure to take children out of school during term time, and alignment with some academy schools already operating a two-week October break. A smaller number of respondents also highlighted potential benefits for SEND pupils through more evenly distributed periods of learning and rest.

4.8 Overall, the consultation evidence suggests that respondents were more united on retaining a one-week October half term than on choosing between Hampshire/Wiltshire

or Reading/Oxfordshire/Wokingham alignment. Taken together, Options 1 and 2 account for 57.9% of all responses, indicating broader support for maintaining existing holiday patterns rather than introducing a two-week October break.

4.9 Of the two alignment options, Option 2 received greater support than Option 1 and reflects the significant cross-boundary relationships many respondents have with Reading, Wokingham and Oxfordshire through work, childcare arrangements, family networks and school attendance. Option 2 would also align West Berkshire with a larger number of neighbouring authorities and may better support future regional relationships.

4.10 Taking account of both the quantitative results and the qualitative consultation feedback, the evidence indicates that Option 2 provides the strongest overall alignment with stakeholder preferences, whilst retaining a one-week October half term and addressing the concerns most frequently raised during the consultation.

5 Introduction/Background

Introduction

5.1 West Berkshire Council is required to determine and publish school term and holiday dates for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, community special schools and maintained nursery schools. To support the establishment of term dates for the 2027/28 academic year, a public consultation was undertaken seeking views on three alternative term date models. The consultation invited responses from parents, carers, school staff, governors and other interested stakeholders and received a total of 330 responses.

5.2 The purpose of this report is to present the findings of the consultation, analyse the key themes emerging from responses, and seek agreement on the preferred term date model for implementation in the 2027/28 academic year.

Background

5.3 School term dates can have a significant impact on families, schools, childcare arrangements, workforce planning, educational delivery and pupil wellbeing. In addition, West Berkshire residents often have strong links with neighbouring local authority areas through employment, childcare arrangements and attendance at schools beyond the borough boundary. As a result, decisions regarding term dates require consideration of both educational and practical implications.

5.4 The consultation presented three options for consideration:

- Option 1: Alignment with Hampshire and Wiltshire term dates.
- Option 2: Alignment with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham term dates.
- Option 3: Introduction of a two-week October half-term with associated changes elsewhere in the academic calendar.

5.5 The consultation generated significant engagement and highlighted the diverse needs of West Berkshire families and schools. Respondents included parents, carers, school

staff, governors and education professionals, providing a broad evidence base to inform decision-making.

5.6 The consultation results showed that Option 3 received the highest number of individual responses, attracting 139 responses (42.1%), while Option 2 received 105 responses (31.8%) and Option 1 received 86 responses (26.1%).

5.7 However, detailed analysis of respondent comments indicates that the consultation was not simply a choice between three distinct alternatives. Respondents supporting Options 1 and 2 generally expressed similar views, with both groups favouring retention of a one-week October half-term and alignment with neighbouring local authorities. Their preference for either Option 1 or Option 2 was largely influenced by which neighbouring authority their employment, family connections, childcare arrangements or children's schools were linked to.

5.8 The most consistent theme emerging from the consultation was concern regarding the implementation of a two-week October half-term. Respondents frequently cited the potential impact on childcare arrangements, affordability, annual leave entitlement and family routines. Conversely, supporters of Option 3 identified benefits including improved wellbeing, opportunities for more affordable family holidays, potential reductions in term-time absence and alignment with academy schools already operating similar arrangements.

Proposals

5.9 This report seeks agreement on the preferred term date model for adoption in West Berkshire maintained schools for the 2027/28 academic year. In doing so, it presents the consultation findings and considers both the quantitative results and the qualitative feedback provided by respondents.

5.10 Analysis of the consultation suggests that the strongest overall message from respondents is a preference to retain a one-week October half-term and align, where possible, with neighbouring authorities. While Option 3 secured the greatest number of individual votes, the combined support for Options 1 and 2 represents a larger proportion of respondents and reflects a broader preference for maintaining existing holiday structures. Option 2 attracted more support than Option 1 and would align West Berkshire with a greater number of neighbouring authorities, including Reading, Wokingham and Oxfordshire.

5.11 The report therefore seeks consideration of the consultation evidence and a decision on the preferred term date model so that approved dates can be published and communicated to schools, parents and stakeholders.

6 Supporting Information

6.1 Consultation Outcomes

6.2 A public consultation was undertaken on the proposed term date options for the 2027/28 academic year. A total of 330 responses were received from parents, carers, school staff, governors and other interested parties. Option 3 received the highest number of individual responses (42.1%), whilst the combined support for Options 1 and 2

represented 57.9% of all responses, indicating wider support for retaining a one-week October half-term.

Key Themes Identified

6.3 Analysis of consultation responses identified several recurring themes:

- Strong support for alignment with neighbouring local authorities.
- Significant reliance on aligned term dates for childcare arrangements and family logistics.
- Concerns regarding the impact of a two-week October half-term on working families.
- Potential financial impacts arising from additional childcare requirements.
- The importance of maintaining consistent term dates where possible across local authorities and academy schools.
- Support from some respondents for a two-week October half-term due to wellbeing benefits and opportunities for more affordable family holidays.

Strategic Considerations

6.4 The consultation demonstrates that the principal issue for respondents was not whether term dates should align with Hampshire/Wiltshire or Reading/Oxfordshire/Wokingham, but whether West Berkshire should move to a two-week October half-term. Responses indicate a broad preference to retain a one-week October half-term whilst aligning, where possible, with neighbouring authorities.

Cross-Border Links

6.5 Many respondents identified employment, childcare, family and educational connections with neighbouring authorities, particularly Reading, Wokingham and Oxfordshire. Aligning term dates with these authorities would support families whose arrangements extend across local authority boundaries and reduce the risk of additional childcare costs and term-date conflicts.

Operational Considerations

6.6 Approved term dates will enable schools, parents, transport providers, childcare providers and other stakeholders to plan arrangements for the 2027/28 academic year. Following the decision, the approved term dates will be published and communicated to all relevant stakeholders.

7 Options for consideration

7.1 Option 1 (Recommended): Adopt Option 2 - Alignment with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham

7.2 This option would adopt the term dates proposed under Option 2, aligning West Berkshire maintained schools with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham. This option received the highest level of support amongst the two alignment options and was supported by 105 respondents (31.8%). Consultation responses identified strong cross-boundary links with these authorities through employment, childcare arrangements, family networks and attendance at schools in neighbouring areas. It would also retain the current one-week October half-term, addressing the most common concern raised during the consultation regarding childcare and affordability.

7.3 **Advantages**

- Most supported of the two alignment options.
- Aligns with a greater number of neighbouring authorities.
- Supports families and staff with cross-border childcare and employment arrangements.
- Retains the one-week October half-term preferred by a majority of respondents when Options 1 and 2 are considered together.
- Reduces the potential childcare and financial pressures associated with a two-week October half-term.

7.4 Option 2: Adopt Option 1 - Alignment with Hampshire and Wiltshire

7.5 This option would align West Berkshire term dates with Hampshire and Wiltshire. It received 86 responses (26.1%) and was primarily supported by respondents with employment, family or childcare connections to Hampshire and Wiltshire. Many respondents also favoured the more balanced six-week spring term structure provided by this option.

7.6 **Advantages**

- Supports families with strong links to Hampshire and Wiltshire.
- Provides balanced spring term lengths which many respondents considered educationally beneficial.
- Retains a one-week October half-term.

7.7 **Reasons not recommended**

- Received less support than Option 2 during consultation.
- Would align West Berkshire with fewer neighbouring authorities.

- Consultation responses indicated stronger overall links with Reading, Wokingham and Oxfordshire than with Hampshire and Wiltshire.

7.8 Option 3: Adopt Option 3 - Two-Week October Half-Term

7.9 This option would introduce a two-week October half-term and make corresponding adjustments elsewhere in the school year. It received the highest number of individual responses, with 139 respondents (42.1%) selecting this option. Supporters cited wellbeing benefits, more affordable holidays and alignment with some academy schools already operating this model.

7.10 **Advantages**

- Provides a longer autumn break for pupils and staff.
- May offer greater opportunities for affordable family holidays.
- Aligns with some academy schools already operating a two-week October half-term.
- Supported by some respondents as beneficial for pupil and staff wellbeing.

7.11 **Reasons not recommended**

- The strongest overall consultation theme was opposition to a two-week October half-term.
- Significant concerns were raised regarding childcare availability, affordability and annual leave requirements.
- Respondents identified potential negative impacts on working families, single-parent households and families of children with SEND.
- The combined support for Options 1 and 2 (57.9%) indicates broader support for retaining a one-week October half-term.

8 Proposals

8.1 Having considered the consultation responses and the wider strategic implications, Option 1 (adoption of consultation Option 2 - alignment with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham) is recommended. This option best reflects the balance of consultation feedback, supports a significant proportion of families and staff with cross-boundary links, and retains the one-week October half-term that was favoured by the majority of respondents.

9 Conclusion

9.1 The consultation responses demonstrate clear support for maintaining a one-week October half term and aligning West Berkshire's term dates with neighbouring local authorities. While Option 3 received the highest number of individual responses, the combined support for Options 1 and 2 indicates a stronger overall preference for

retaining broadly current arrangements rather than introducing a two-week October half term.

9.2 Option 2 received greater support than Option 1, attracting 105 responses (31.8%) compared with 86 responses (26.1%). Respondents supporting Option 2 frequently cited links with Reading, Wokingham and Oxfordshire through employment, childcare arrangements, family networks and attendance at schools across authority boundaries.

9.3 Option 2 would also align West Berkshire with a greater number of neighbouring authorities. This reflects the consultation evidence, which identified significant cross-border links with Reading, Wokingham and Oxfordshire and a desire amongst many respondents to minimise differences in school holiday patterns across those areas.

9.4 In addition to the consultation findings, alignment with Oxfordshire may better reflect emerging regional relationships. Aligning with Oxfordshire now may therefore provide greater long-term consistency for residents, schools and employers.

9.1 The most consistent theme throughout the consultation was opposition to a two-week October half term, with concerns focused on childcare availability, affordability and the impact on working families. Taking account of both the consultation findings and wider strategic considerations, Option 2 provides the strongest alignment with respondent preferences whilst also aligning West Berkshire with a broader group of neighbouring authorities.

9.2 Having considered the consultation responses and the wider strategic implications, Option 1 (adoption of consultation Option 2 - alignment with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham) is recommended. This option best reflects the balance of consultation feedback, supports a significant proportion of families and staff with cross-boundary links, and retains the one-week October half-term that was favoured by the majority of respondents.

9.3 Appendix A – Consultation

9.4 Appendix B – Consultation responses

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: ☐ No: ☒

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval	☐
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council	☐
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position	☒

Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees or Task Groups within preceding six months	☐
Item is Urgent Key Decision	☒
Report is to note only	☐

Wards affected: All

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Appendix A

Consultation document

Public Consultation

School Term Dates 2027/28

Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in West Berkshire

1. Introduction

West Berkshire Council is seeking views on proposed school term dates for the **2027/28 academic year**.

This consultation applies to:

- Community schools
- Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools
- Community special schools
- Maintained nursery schools

Academy, foundation and voluntary aided schools are responsible for setting their own term dates and are **not required** to follow Local Authority dates, although many choose to align where possible.

Your feedback will help inform the final decision on the term dates adopted by West Berkshire Council.

2. Why We Are Consulting

Local authorities are responsible for setting term dates for the schools they maintain. Before confirming dates, we aim to:

- Consider the needs of pupils, families and school staff
- Align term dates with neighbouring local authorities where possible
- Understand the impact of different holiday patterns on attendance, childcare and family life

There are several viable options for the 2027/28 academic year, each with different advantages and challenges. We are therefore consulting to understand public preferences and any potential impacts.

3. Statutory Requirements

- Schools must open for at least **380 sessions (190 days)** each academic year.

- The school year must begin **after July**.
- Schools are also required to set **5 INSET (training) days** each year.

As is current practice in West Berkshire, all proposed options include:

- **194 scheduled days**, including
- **1 fixed INSET day at the start of the Autumn Term**
- Schools would decide how to use the remaining **4 INSET days**

4. Background and Context

When setting term dates, the Council considers:

- Alignment with neighbouring authorities, particularly:
    - Reading
    - Oxfordshire
    - Wokingham
    - Hampshire
    - Wiltshire
- The length and balance of half terms
- The timing of public holidays, including Easter and May bank holidays
- The impact on attendance, childcare and family costs

Currently:

- All neighbouring authorities propose a **one-week October half term**
- Some local schools and academy trusts already operate a **two-week October half term**, using INSET days within the holiday period

5. The Term Date Options

Option 1

Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire

- One-week October half term
- Easter break earlier
- Two balanced six-week half terms in Spring

Autumn Term 2027

- Starts: Wednesday 1 September 2027 (INSET day)
- Ends: Friday 17 December 2027
- Half term: 25–29 October 2027

Spring Term 2028

- Starts: Tuesday 4 January 2028
- Ends: Friday 31 March 2028
- Half term: 14–18 February 2028

Summer Term 2028

- Starts: Tuesday 18 April 2028
- Ends: Friday 21 July 2028
- Half term: 29 May – 2 June 2028

Option 2

Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham

- One-week October half term
- Later Easter break
- Uneven Spring Term (7 weeks before Easter, 5 weeks after)

Autumn Term 2027

- Starts: Thursday 2 September 2027 (INSET day)
- Ends: Friday 17 December 2027
- Half term: 25–29 October 2027

Spring Term 2028

- Starts: Tuesday 4 January 2028
- Ends: Friday 7 April 2028
- Half term: 14–18 February 2028

Summer Term 2028

- Starts: Monday 24 April 2028
- Ends: Friday 21 July 2028
- Half term: 29 May – 2 June 2028

Option 3

Includes a two-week October half term

This option would **require schools to place their 4 remaining INSET days within school holidays**.

- Two-week October half term
- Matches Option 2 Easter dates
- May not be adopted by academies and voluntary aided schools

Autumn Term 2027

- Starts: Thursday 2 September 2027 (INSET day)
- Ends: Friday 17 December 2027
- Half term: 18–29 October 2027

Spring Term 2028

- Starts: Tuesday 4 January 2028
- Ends: Friday 7 April 2028
- Half term: 14–18 February 2028

Summer Term 2028

- Starts: Monday 24 April 2028
- Ends: Friday 21 July 2028
- Half term: 29 May – 2 June 2028

6. Key Considerations

When responding to the consultation, you may wish to consider:

- How important alignment with neighbouring local authorities is for your family
- The impact of longer or shorter half terms on:
    - Childcare arrangements
    - Family finances
    - Child wellbeing and learning
- The effect of a two-week October break on working families
- The potential for different schools operating different calendars
- Impact on teachers and school management

8. How to Respond

We are inviting feedback on **Options 1, 2 and 3**.

Please tell us:

- Which option you prefer and why
- Any impacts (positive or negative) that the option may have on you or your family
- If you are a responding as a parent, school or other
- Any other relevant comments you wish to make

9. What Happens Next

All responses will be reviewed and considered before a final decision is made.
The agreed term dates will then be published and shared with schools.

Thank you for taking the time to take part in this consultation.

Appendix B

Consultation responses

Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire		I work in a secondary school and I need time off at the same time as my children. I want to be able to spend quality time with them.	
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire			
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	Even spread of holidays, as I will have to spread my overtime out to be able to look after my child in the holidays	I would likely have to give up my job if there was a two week October holiday as I have no childcare. I have had my job for 20 years.	
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	My children attend Hampshire schools. However, I think a 2 weeks half term is a must in the autumn term as a 7 weeks half term followed by another 7 week term is long. I also prefer equal terms as we work in 6 week blocks and if we have a 5 week term followed by a 7 week term it's really hard to teach everything.	My children would have a different Easter holiday to me and I would need to consider childcare if option 1 wasn't chosen.	No
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	Feels more balanced for the children. A 2 week October half term would be more challenging to manage with regards to remaining holiday allowance this year.	Not enough holiday allowance to cover a 2 week October half term	

Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	I work in a local school that is in an academy, therefore would prefer dates to align with those (1 week in October). As a teacher it is already incredibly difficult to manage inset days due to NO childcare available on those days!	Difficulty finding childcare if we as teachers (both parents) have different holidays to our children.	
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	An unbalanced term time is very difficult to manage structurally with covering content and assessments. Particularly when there is a short 5 week term. Having to take inset days in holidays then reduces our time to relax.	My family would be on school holidays and I would have to go for inset days which is an issue for childcare.	Take two weeks in October and a week off the summer holidays would be another option not considered
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	This aligns with other authorities and works well for childcare reasons and having family under another authority having the same school holidays. To have balanced terms has a more positivity impact on children's wellbeing and focus at school. There are many children who struggle with the longer term. Parents do not have enough holiday to cover an extra week in October. Having inset days spread across the year has less impact to working families without the additional cost of childcare.	Aligns with friends' schools, and family members making it practical for childcare options, playdates. Less pressure for working families to find childcare if inset days are spread across the year instead of the additional week in October. Even spring term, less impacting of child's wellbeing and focus on school.	None
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	Even terms make more sense A two week half term would increase childcare issues for many families especially	Longer half terms would cause childcare stress	

	so soon after the summer holidays.		
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire		I work in a West Berkshire school and my children attend a Hampshire school so I need the term dates to align.	
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	Even length half terms	7 plus week half terms are too much for both staff and children.	
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	A 2 week October half term would mean we would be relying on holiday clubs, which would be more expense. Also not guaranteed that there would be suitable holiday clubs and we don't have enough holiday days at work.	It is all negative and the reason listed above.	Please keep it as close to the current set up
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	Even term lengths for Spring term.	As a teacher, I prefer even term lengths during the spring term. As a teacher and a parent, I feel that a 2 week break in October so soon after the summer holidays, is disruptive to learning.	No
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	I feel my son would struggle with the seven week term - by the 5th week of school he's ready for a break	Covering school holidays is already difficult as working parents who only have an allowance of 25 days - to extend the October half term would cause difficulties with covering as I can't take 2 weeks in a row	No
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire		My friends and family live in Wiltshire and Hampshire so it makes things logistically easier if our holiday dates align with theirs.	No

Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	Option 1 or 2 is preferable Having a 2 week period in October causes logistical problems, and will likely mean we can't have time off together as a family due to childcare issue. By this I mean parents having to take different weeks off from work. I know other families I have spoken with share this view. I also don't think children need 2 weeks off so close to the beginning of term.	Having a 2 week period in October causes logistical problems, and will likely mean we can't have time off together as a family due to childcare issue. By this I mean parents having to take different weeks off from work. I know other families I have spoken with share this view. I also don't think children need 2 weeks off so close to the beginning of term.	It is great that West Berkshire are conducting a survey. I imagine you are speaking with other councils to make sure they aren't doing the same and everything not being aligned if changes are made.
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	I prefer option 1 as it fits in with my current work and childcare. I don't like option 2 where inset day is Thursday, as the children would get one day back before the weekend which I think is unproductive I don't like a 2 week half term in October as I'd need to find childcare while I work (I work at a school so I can't book time off and my school don't do half term camps)	As I said, childcare I wouldn't have so am not sure what I would be able to do with her while I work in education and one day back at school and then a weekend, I don't think is great for getting into a routine	No
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	I think two six week terms in Spring Term makes so much more sense. It enables teachers to be more efficient and effective at a key part of the year for consistent teaching.	Easier to plan where my children will be, the childcare I may require and better for them as a 7 week term is not fun for anyone. By the end of week 5 the children are flagging, 7 weeks can be very challenging when the children are tired.	No.
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire			

Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	Even holidays. Only one week to source childcare in October	Financial impact of having to take unpaid leave from work to cover childcare	None currently
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	More balanced half term in the spring.		
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	I work in Hampshire so this arrangement aligns with my work school dates	Difficult to manage childcare over a 2 week October half term.	
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	The balanced approach before and after Easter is easier to manage and enables for easier childcare arrangements	The preferred option would help with arranging childcare with friends that have children at school in Basingstoke. It also makes it easier to juggle holidays having an earlier Easter to go away when things are a bit cheaper	No
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	I Work in a Hampshire school. Both of my children attend settings in west Berkshire	This would impact childcare arrangements and additional financial costs as the holidays for Hampshire and Berkshire would not match. I would have to pay for extra nursery and school aged holiday activity clubs.	Please align with Hampshire.
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	To even out the terms and try and reduce such a long/short half term. I would not want INSET days to be placed in holidays.	I live in Hampshire and it would make it easier for me to have the same term dates as Hampshire.	None.
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	Because there are many academy schools who set their own. The October half term is tricky with 2 weeks. Staff have to work inset days and having 4 in a row won't be effective. We use inset days for training and trying to get companies available to come in with no	My 2 children will be off at the same time	

	flexibility will be challenging.		
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	I like the idea of having two balanced terms towards the end of the school year. The children are exhausted in the last few weeks of school and we've had a 7 week term the past few years. A week less would make a huge difference for the children and for the teachers too.		
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	The equal session times after the Easter break are easier to plan.		
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	I am teacher in the Hampshire local authority	I would find childcare hard. I have two other children at nursery in the Hampshire authority; I have a husband who works away touring for significant periods and other family members with health issues who cannot look after children for long periods of time.	
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	As someone who works during the West Berkshire school term but with children attending a Hampshire school, keeping the term dates aligned with Hampshire is the preferred option for my family.	My preferred option ensures that my children can be properly supported outside of their term time, and without additional financial pressures.	

Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire			
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	I am a special school nurse working in schools across Hampshire and aligning with Hampshire schools would allow me to manage childcare effectively	If west berks were aligned with Hampshire I would be able to manage my childcare effectively	
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	I would like the spring term having two halves of 6 weeks, much better for the children as they get very tired with 7 weeks and 5 weeks seems really short. Two six weeks in the spring term makes more sense. I also do not not want a long two week half term during October. I just think this is too long and much prefer the inset days to be spread throughout the year. My older child will be at The Downs. They follow option 3 I believe. I don't mind that it will be different for my two children as it gives me opportunity to spend one on one time with both of them.	I think the having two equally balanced term halve in spring will allow my younger child to get the most out of the school term as she would get very tired with a long 7 week stint and 5 weeks is very short. I also think having inset days spread gives children extra days off which helps them recharge or end a long term a day early. I don't think putting them together for two weeks in October is helpful.	
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	Finishing for Easter earlier and having even/balanced half terms (6 and 6).	Finishing for Easter earlier will have a positive impact.	No.
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire			

Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	We feel that the balanced terms are best for the children, a two week half term in October would be hard to manage at that time of year, weather etc	Option 1 is pretty much what we are used to, we can manage this well and the children respond well to this schedule.	Nope
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	Aligned to siblings	Alignment to sibling for holidays and ability to take time off work for childcare	No
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	This is currently how the school appears to run; this would propose Easter to finish just prior to the BH weekend which has always worked well with cover throughout the long Easter break. Further, the current one week in October works well with INSET days throughout the year makes it more manageable.	As above, we are able to utilise the BH weekend to cover the holiday period over Easter, if later this would require further annual leave to be taken by working class families. The public services are already having to work more for less, money is tight and finding funding if leave is unavailable to cover an extra week will put further pressure of these families.	No
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	This is the closest to what we've got at the moment. It would be very hard for us to cover two weeks holidays in October and 7 weeks' half a term is long and tiring for children.	Difficulties getting childcare/annual leave for two weeks in October. Too much for children in 7 weeks' half term	
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	More even term lengths and aligned with friends and family	Evenly spread terms means less burn out for my kids.	
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire			

Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	This option suits our family	None it suits us	None, already stated
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	I don't think 2 weeks of half term in October is a good idea. For children, both my own and my students, I don't think a longer break in October is beneficial (I will have a child studying for GCSEs). Personally, either of the other options work well. Perhaps the evenly spread out earlier Easter will be good for my child doing her GCSEs to start independent study earlier in the year will be a good idea…but either option will be good, except number 3	Earlier start of whole day revising timetable for GCSE students - with less and less study time away from school being allowed (& in my opinion, this is the time they really have to revise their own gaps), the earlier the Easter holidays the better.	Non/a
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	A two week October half term will be very difficult to manage. A balanced term seems the best solution over an unbalanced one	A balanced term.	
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	Evenly split terms are easier to manage in terms of finding childcare for the holidays. The disruption of a school holiday on my work schedule is exacerbated when half term holidays are longer or term times are shorter. Evenly spread holidays are more predictable for work commitments	Childcare needs will be easier to manage. Holiday childcare relies heavily on family.	No

Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	A balanced spring term of 6 weeks each would be better - the longer term is harder for concentration levels at school.	The longer terms are trickier for our children who are neuro-diverse and struggle to maintain the routine when tired. Everyone needs a break.	
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	I have chosen Option 1 because of the close border with Hampshire; however, Option 2 would also be okay. We would not want Option 3 with the two week October half term holiday.	N/A	A two- week October half term means parents that I am in touch with needing to find extra childcare and/or to pay more to heat their homes at a cold time of year.
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	If it ain' t broke don't fix it.	6 weeks is a really long time. Having 2 week bursts are probably better so it all holidays were 2 weeks long maybe?	No
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	Suitable for Hungerford and West Berks	N/A	Agree that Local Authority determines the holiday dates for all Schools
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	The equal spring/summer terms make it easier to plan classes around as an educator, as well as helping plan for school holiday periods as a parent.	Easier to book time off work to care for children.	
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	Important to align with closest counties; the 2 week half term in October sounds attractive but could cause issues for working parents. A longer Christmas break & a slightly shorter summer break would be better for the children who are always exhausted after the festive activities but I know it's not an option!	Keep the status quo	No

Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	Having even term lengths is better for both children and staff- it allows for easier planning for families to get time off and organise themselves	Positive impact of even school term lengths	
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	A one week October half term makes arrangements for childcare easier. Even six week spring terms would give better balance for the children.	There would be little negative impact as the holidays would be evenly spaced and similar to the existing model.	If, for any reason, option 3 is chosen this would have a negative impact adding an additional week block to an already difficult holiday schedule for working parents to navigate. With the average UK holiday entitlement at 20 days plus bank holidays families already fall well short of the required days to cover all School holidays not to mention single parents. It is a lot easier and affordable to arrange childcare for the odd inset days across a year.
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	More even term length	Na	Na
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire		As with everything West Berkshire council does, you're creating change when it isn't necessary and making people's lives more complicated. Looking forward to you being voted out at the next election.	You need to listen to the voters.

Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire			
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	As a teacher, I believe more balanced terms (6 weeks) are more educationally beneficial. Hopefully, this would avoid terms or greater than 7 weeks which are too long.	More balanced terms (around 6 weeks) would be easier for my SEND child to access rather than longer 7 week plus terms.	No
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire		Option 1 is the best to cover the half term as a single mum of two boys. The other options have put me in to a very difficult situation.	Please choose option 1. I don't want to lose my job to being still ask for unpaid or holidays for all of the half term. Also, there isn't enough holiday to cover all of the half term.
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	While I'm not opposed to option two, I believe a balanced approach would better suit all parties, particularly the children, who may be more likely to experience burnout over the longer term. I do not support two-week half terms, as I do not feel this would be beneficial.	I don't see any negatives with my preferred option. A balanced term structure is, in my view, the more favourable approach. However, both option 1 and option 2 would be far preferable to option 3, which I struggle to understand the reasoning behind including as an option.	
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	I think my son will benefit from a balanced spring term.	I currently have a 2 week October half term which will impact my family if west Berkshire have the same as gives me the opportunity to get jobs done and re-charge myself and my mental health before having my children off	No
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	Even term dates seem the sensible option!	Will align with friends across in Hampshire so means we can see them in holidays	None

Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	My partner and I both work full time. We already struggle to balance annual leave across the holidays whilst still trying to spend time together as a family. Half term childcare is expensive and upsetting for my children who just want to be at home but can't because we're working. Balanced 6 week terms makes more sense for the children.	Described previously	No
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	Both parents work full-time, a longer October half-term is challenging Option 3 is the worst option, option 1 or 2 would be OK but balanced terms is preferable We only have 1 child so am not worried about aligning to other areas, hence why we're somewhat flexible between options 1 and 2	If we went to a 2 week October half-term it would be even more challenging to cover school holidays	No
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	I strongly object to a two week break in October. This will cause unnecessary pressure for working families to find childcare. It is hard enough trying to navigate the six weeks summer holidays. My reasons for selecting option one rather than two is because it makes the school terms balanced for my child. He is always ready for a break from school around the six week mark.		

Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire		As a nurse within NHS trying to get children in alternative childcare in the holidays is a challenge and trying to add another week on October half term when it's usually one week previous years will be hard as working parents already have to try and source alternative options for the summer. Unsure to why it would need to be changed	Nil
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	I like the even terms	Just not so tired during spring term	I don't mind when the inset days are
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	Earlier than Easter so holidays abroad are likely to be cheaper and less busy. Also, the balanced term weeks. No need for 2 weeks in October	More affordable holidays	No
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire			
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	A balance of 6 week terms in Spring is better for children and staff. One week in October is sufficient and allows for a longer summer holiday when the weather is better and children can be more active.	Earlier Easter - no impact Bana lanced 6 week terms - positive outcome for children.	
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	Evenly balanced half terms. As a working family, I strongly object to option 3. Inset days are easy to manage in isolation by swapping days off etc however, finding childcare for another week of half term is not, and an	As a working family, I strongly object to option 3. Inset days are easy to manage in isolation by swapping days off etc however, finding childcare for another week of half term is not, and an added expense and stress to working families who already do not receive enough support when costs of living are	If you would like to propose a two week half term in October, it would not impact working families if you deducted this week from the six week summer holiday. Better

	added expense and stress to working families who already do not receive enough support when costs of living are always increasing but wages are not.	always increasing but wages are not.	still, make the summer holidays 4 weeks long and Feb & October half terms 2 weeks long, making it much easier and affordable for working families to afford.
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire			
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	My child attends a school in Hampshire, so having school holidays at the same time would be the best option for us. Different holiday times would make childcare and family life more complicated.	See above.	
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire			
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	It would propose difficulty for us as a family if holiday dates differed to the academy school my husband works at in west Berkshire.	This would financially impact us having to pay for childcare whilst I work and impact the quality time we could then spend as a family due to the increased demand of me having to take additional holiday to take care of the children.	

Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire		Reducing inset days has an impact of school staff. Introducing a two week October half term may result in a short term uplift in attendance and also allow for some families to take advance of a cheaper holiday. However, this coat will soon become balanced once the travel companies notice the trend and experience an increase in demand. This will result in more term time holidays. Even with cheaper holidays not all families will be able to afford these. Additionally, there is a chance that this may impact school staff in a negative manner if they have children in a non-Berkshire school. Newbury for example is close to the Oxfordshire and Hampshire boarder and staff travel in from these families. Additionally, this would have a negative impact on our family as one member is a teacher in an academy within Berkshire with a 1 week half term, thus impacting the non-teacher who would be required to take additional holiday.	N/A

Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	I feel that this option spreads out the holidays most consistently and allows for both children and those who work in school to have the correct balance of time within school but also holiday period. I do not believe that an additional week in October would benefit the children at all, I have been working nearly 20 years as a teacher and have never seen any evidence to make me think that children at this point require 2 weeks off after only just returning from the summer break. Teachers equally aren't at a point where 2 weeks is needed. With schools not aligning on this it would add immense pressure for teachers who are parents and also working parents who would need to find childcare, unnecessarily. I feel the equal split of the spring term works better than a longer and shorter one, particularly in terms of planning units of work and for children's mental wellbeing. It is important to remember that children need their holidays to rest and feel regulated again but that also school is the consist for them so too many changes are not helpful, particular for our SEN children, this is particularly highlighted if	It would have a financial impact for childcare if my children were not off at the same time as me and equally if they had an extra week off it would have a financial impact to keep them entertained for an extra week. It would also have an emotional and mental impact for my son who is autistic, he knows holidays are spent with me but if I were not to be off with him, he would not cope with this. Uneven terms are something my children do find challenging as they get tired towards the end of long terms so if they were even this would help. Option 1 would be helpful if all of West Berkshire aligned with it, the children are used to this routine and 1 week in October is enough to boast the moral and mental wellbeing of both my children and myself.	I think it's important for West Berkshire to consider why they are looking at changes and who it is for. Children require school holidays to rest and continue learning and making memories with their family/friends so that they deepen their understanding of the world. A 2 week October holiday is not required and would add nothing, it is not the right time of the year to be adding a week onto. I feel all schools within the Borough so have to follow the same rule to support parents within it. Perhaps more support should go into after school club fees which are outrageous- £15 per session per child at my child's school, that's £30 a week we pay for them to be there 1 hour and get a brioche!

	they are unable to be with their main caregivers due to childcare reasons. Added holidays in October would also lead to addition expense for parents. Teachers also have a right to spend their holidays with their children and if holidays do not align between schools this would not be the case.		
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	Earlier easter break 1 week half term as inset days being used for school holidays is hard to manage. Especially when teachers have to work inset days.	Alignment as much across west berks would be preferable with children at different schools.	
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	One week in October is main reason (to say why I wouldn't choose options 3 or 4) & balanced 6 week spring terms is good as children not so tired before Easter	Keeping October half term as one week is key as less impact on work & less dysregulated child after just a week off as opposed to two	Options 1 or 2 would be my choices. I definitely do not agree options 3 or 4
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire		Full time working parents makes it easier to cover plus the term breaks are even children get tired and need these breaks	no

Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire		Even terms and one week holidays are better manageable with work.	N/a
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	Better balance of education. Children flag after 6 weeks so a 7 week half term is unproductive. A 5 week half term is too short after Easter especially when allowing for GCSE exams etc.	No impact	
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire			
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire			
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire		My wedding!	
Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire		I want to get married and my partner works at a Hampshire school.	

Option 1 - Aligned with Hampshire and Wiltshire	Option 1 = operationally simplest and most childcare-friendly Option 2 = compromise (alignment with neighbours, but uneven) Option 3 = most disruptive for wraparound/holiday provision Option 1 • Even term lengths • Earlier Easter • Predictable rhythm for staffing and childcare demand Best for: consistency, planning, routine-based wraparound Option 2 • Longer run Jan → Feb half term • Shorter post–half-term spring • Easter later into April Best for: alignment with neighbouring LAs (Reading/Oxfordshire) Option 3 • Major break early in year • Long uninterrupted periods either side • Highest disruption to routine Best for: • Families wanting longer autumn break Challenge for School Aged Childcare: staffing + lower occupancy for two weeks	Option 1 → Aligns with existing demand patterns → Supports stable, sustainable provision Option 2 → Extends already high-demand winter period → Increases operational pressure Option 3 → Two-week October break creates: One high-demand week One under-utilised week → Reduces efficiency and increases cost risk	From a childcare perspective, non-aligned INSET days are one of the most frustrating and disruptive issues for families. While shared “pupil days” generally work well, problems arise when individual schools set different INSET days within term time. This means siblings can be off on different days, forcing parents to arrange additional childcare, which is often more expensive and harder to secure. It also creates unnecessary stress for families and makes it more difficult for childcare providers to plan staffing and maintain viable provision, potentially reducing availability overall.
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	I work in Reading, maybe will be easier for us to align with Reading	As above	No

Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	We live in Reading and have children attending different schools	Absolutely please DO NOT increase half terms - this will be highly disruptive for children and they will take longer to get used to going back afterwards.	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham			
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	We live in Wokingham Borough but our children attend a West Berkshire junior school. In two years', time our eldest will almost certainly go to secondary school in Wokingham Borough so having aligned term dates will be helpful for wrap around care and holiday planning.	If any other option other than Option 2 is chosen it will be prohibitive to family time as holidays are likely to fall at different times when my children attend education settings in two different boroughs.	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	This will align with family and friends for childcare and social reasons.	Changing this for option 1 or 3 will inevitably cause childcare issues for many parents and impact social events with many friends and family who are within the Reading/Wokingham/Oxfordshire council areas.	No
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham		I work in west Berkshire and my child goes in reading so 2 weeks October half term is best option for both of us.	No

Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham			
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham			
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	To align with my work term times	To have a 2 a week half term in October would mean that my children would not have childcare as I work in a Reading where it is just one week	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	As a teacher myself it has been a real struggle juggling different inset days with the other boroughs. I work in Reading but my daughter goes to school in West Berkshire. I would lose a week's worth of my daughter as I still have to work and holidays do not align already.	This would.be a huge loose for me as a single. Mother and a teacher. Or would lose a week with my daughter	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	I have children in schools both in West Berkshire and Reading districts.	Option 2 would allow us to coordinate holidays - and the required childcare - more manageably.	Option 3 - with the 2 week half term in October and a shorter summer break - sounds truly awful.
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Have primary school children in Reading area and want holidays to align	Aligned holidays for families is positive	No

Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham		More suitable in line with the current arrangements	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	We are situated close to the Reading border and families with children in Reading schools would benefit.	None	No
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Berkshire music hub serves schools across 5 unitary authorities. If these UA term dates do not align, it's incredibly difficult for us to set term dates that serve all schools. Additionally, I don't believe west berks should be dictated to by an academy chain that has chosen to go for a different pattern to the UA. A two week half term in October does not allow families to make the most of good weather.	See above	No
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	My wife is a teacher in Wokingham borough school.	Misalignment limits the holiday time we can spend together as a family.	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	We don't want a two week holiday in October. Awful time to have 2 weeks off. Too close to Christmas. Prefer ad hoc insets. Prefer the later Easter break. Suits husbands work best and childcare.	Negatively impacts quality family time. Later Easter has positive impact on quality family time	No thanks.

Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	My son will be able to attend school at the same dates as my school and the students work that is scheduled and plan for coursework will be maintained so they have the opportunity to a given in the set perimeters	My son and I would be off school at the same time and I would be able to spend it with him and not have to spend more on care for him saving me money	People need to also think about what is appropriate for teachers who spend hours planning for exams and coursework so that everything is taught to an achievable standard for the students. It's not just about holidays, time off and affordable.
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Myself and my husband work as teachers in Reading so would want our holidays to align with our daughters for childcare reasons.	We would be able to spend the holidays together as a family rather than having time off separately to our daughter. We would also have to pay for childcare which would impact us financially.	No
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	A 2 week half term is too long and would impact childcare arrangements and increase costs for such	It would be the same as it is currently	No
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	We live in Reading. We have family and friends who attend Reading schools. We take advantage of holiday activities in our area. Being aligned with Reading is the best option for us.	We would be able to plan activities together with friends and family and share childcare in the holidays	No
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	I work as a teacher in a Wokingham school and want the holidays to align	Option 2 would mean my child and I have our holidays at the same time, meaning we spend time together and cutting down on additional childcare cost/stresses.	

Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	I teach in a Reading school and would like my children, who attend a West Berks school, to have the same holidays as me.	That I can be off with the children without having to organise additional childcare. My job is busy enough so I value the holidays with my children.	No
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham		Hopefully it would work around my job hours term dates	Na
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham		None	No
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Option 3 is not feasible for families with younger children. My son is 3 and cannot attend holiday clubs. We have little family support so needing to take 2 weeks holiday in one go is a big chunk of our holiday in one go.	We would be able to see family and friends who live in Reading and also share childcare with family members who also have children in Reading.	2 weeks holiday in October would be a terrible idea.
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Ensures we do not have clashes as my wife is also a teacher in West Berkshire	Childcare remains consistent	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham			

Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	As we live very close to the borders of Reading. it makes sense to have the same holidays as Reading Borough		
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	With family members helping us out with childcare for school holidays attending Reading schools, matching their schedules work best for us.	I would struggle finding suitable childcare if these no longer aligned	No
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Work in Wokingham borough school and have a child in a West Berkshire school. Ideally would like the holidays to align.	Different holiday dates if West Berkshire doesn't align with Wokingham.	No thanks
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Either option 1 or option 2. Option 3 is ridiculous. A 2 week October is too long and very uneven with other schools. And will cause hardship for families who receive HAF / need childcare etc. I also think it's incredibly unfair on teaching staff to lose their holiday days in order to attend an inset. And how engaged will they be with CPD? This is not the way to retain and recruit school staff	See above	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham			

Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	We live in West Berkshire & closer to Oxfordshire. The 2 week October break is a long time to arrange holiday care.	The struggle to find holiday care.	If I was required to go in for inset day then I'd need to arrange care.
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	We live in West Berks and are really close to Oxfordshire.	2 week October break is a long time to find holiday care.	No
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	I feel strongly that a 2 week half term in October is not a good idea because of the pressure it will put on working families, and I personally feel that the uneven spring term will work well for my young children who start to struggle when the weather becomes warmer in the summer	I don't think the impact would be too great on my family as we can be flexible and plan our annual leave around school holidays. My only hope is that we get enough prior warning when a decision is made to plan accordingly	How will respondents be informed of the outcome of the consultation?
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham			
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	My children attend a Reading school	We can take family holidays together and I do not have to arrange additional childcare	No
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	A two week October half term would be much trickier to cover from a childcare perspective as working parents. Option 1 or 2 would be the preference, although a	Positive impact as opposed to a two week October half term in terms of childcare	Consider adjusting the summer break to be shorter to assist with childcare for working parents.

	more broken up year with shorted summer holiday would be even better.		
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham		I work in Hampshire so I will be able to take time off	No
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Because a later Easter break helps the longer summer term It's at a time of year when we may be able to benefit from better weather outside, I don't want a 2 week October half term - it's usually cold, wet and dark	Benefit from more time outside in better weather Aligns better with cousin's holidays	It's really hard that the academies can set their own dates Longer term, I will end up with 2 children at Kennet and one with an EHCP elsewhere. This means that all our holidays are unlikely to align with mine as a teacher in a West Berkshire school. It would be so much simpler if we all had the same weeks off. If we were going to go for a 2 week half term at some point in the year, I'd prefer it to be added to May half term. It's always such a time of year with so much to do for school that it is never really a break as there's so much paperwork to do There remains significant support for alignment with

			neighbouring authorities, with **Options 1 and 2 together accounting for approximately 58%** of all responses.. It's also the longest term when children are so tired.
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham		Slightly later easter break may mean there are less clashes with other counties meaning holidays might be cheaper.	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Would not wish for a 2 week October half term, but don't mind if earlier or later Easter break.	We don't have enough annual leave to cover a two week half term, and clubs tend to operate for a week only (not to mention the expense of such clubs). One positive is that taking a holiday may be cheaper in the October half term.	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Better weather as a week later for kids to be outside with Easter in the middle of the break rather than right at the end which causes issues with a part week the first week back in the summer term under option 1 Two week half term in October is a nightmare for childcare arrangements and terrible weather so absolutely not option 3	Childcare arrangements easier under option 2 as it will be both 4 day weeks to cover - no negatives - a lot of parents take this time off as there are the bank holidays. October half term is always hard with cold inclement weather and there is not the variety of childcare options - 2 weeks would make it very hard to find the necessary cover. Option 1 works except the easter break which would be harder to cover off childcare with a full week, then a 4 day week	Please do not subject our children to a two week October half term.

Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	I worry a great deal about the 2 week October half term and the impact on families.		
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham		A two week half term would be very challenging to cover as both me and my husband work full time	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Aligning with Reading and Wokingham will make easier to plan activities and childcare with relatives and friends that live in those authorities.	It'll be aligned with other children that live nearby. It will make easier to plan childcare	I don't think option 3 is helpful because it would mean having to arrange childcare for 2 weeks in October as opposed of 1 week.
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Closer relationship to RBC and work in Reading, would suit our family to be more aligned to option 2	Family help with childcare. Aligned to family and friends' holidays to allow the children more time with those close relationships. Holiday club is in Reading this would cover the Reading dates, would need to find alternative clubs that would probably require a drive away to	No
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Sensible to align with neighbouring boroughs as this supports local school holiday clubs.	Positive impact: balancing school holiday childcare with Work commitments. We have no family support so need to manage childcare over the school holidays between the two of us as well as using local holiday clubs. Aligning with other local boroughs allows us continued access to school holiday childcare.	Increasing the October half term to two weeks will have a significantly negative impact to working parents; especially those who do not have any family support to take on childcare responsibilities.

Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Our location is near to Reading schools and south Oxfordshire schools and would make life easier for everyone in the area.		
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Either 1 or 2 but not 3	As a working family, 2 weeks in October will make childcare trickier so I would not like option 3	No
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	I'm a solo parent of a 2 year old and a 10 year old. I work in West Berks school. My daughter will be in year 7 for this period where there are no holiday camps but she cannot be left alone. Little one has 30 funded hours term time only. So, I will have no childcare for either child and my mother will be over 80. Thus, I would not be able to attend my workplace as I would need to care for the children. I live 20 minutes from my schoolwork place. SO, I would hope West Berkshire would align with Oxfordshire as we're so close.	My preferred option would enable me to work. Different holidays would be a massive issue.	What would happen if the holidays do not align to people like me?
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham		This matches my own child's school, south Oxfordshire. The later easter matches with most council dates I have seen. A later Easter seems to fit well with submission of a-level and GCSE marks and run up to the exam and study leave.	

Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Childcare as I am a teacher in Oxfordshire	Cost of alternative childcare if not the same as Oxfordshire	Please align with Oxfordshire
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham		Parent is a teacher in Oxfordshire	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham		Would be on holiday at the same time as my husband (also a teacher but in a different authority).	No
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Helpful for work	Easier to arrange time off	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	I don't have a strong preference between option 1 or option 2 but don't want option 3.	I work in a West Berks primary school and my two children attend a West Berks secondary school. I don't have a strong preference between option 1 or option 2 and don't mind the uneven Spring half terms. However, my biggest concern is that my children attend an academy secondary school so that school can make their own decision regarding term dates. Whatever decision is made by West Berks it needs to align with the dates of West Berks secondary schools (almost all of which are academies) otherwise this will lead to an increase in term time absence if some schools are off and not others as	

		it may make it difficult for families to book holidays. It will also make it difficult for working parents with children in different schools if maintained and academy schools have different term dates.	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	I don't think a 2 week half term in oct would benefit the children. And my family is in Wokingham for child cover	A longer half term in October would be hard to cover in terms of childcare and balancing work. I live in Wokingham so would be beneficial to align with	Would the possibility of an early easter and 2 weeks in May half term work?
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	I do not think a 2 week half term in October is a good option, given it comes so soon after the long summer holidays. For me, it would make sense for the term dates to align with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham, as I may have children at schools in West Berkshire and Reading in future.	Having children at schools in different LAs where holidays are not aligned would complicate childcare arrangements.	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham			

Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	I don't like 2 week oct half term - they've only just settled into a new yr and class and then they be off for 2 weeks. I think it would be really disruptive to their settling in for the year. It's also hard for working parents- just managed the summer holidays and they almost straight away need to find another 2 weeks. Id prefers to align with reading/Wokingham as more crossover with kids also attending school there than in Hampshire/Wiltshire.	I think my SEN kid would struggle to settle in a new class with 2 weeks off in October. I have no idea how I'd manage work and childcare.	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	I think you should have multi option available as options 1 and 2 are so similar it will naturally favour those who wasn't the 2 week October half term as votes will be split across 1 or 2. I do not mind between options 1 or 2 but a 2 week Oct half terms would be really tricky due to very high pressured job, single parent and my kids are just at an age where they are too old for holiday clubs but too young to leave the house with their friends. Half terms are the hardest holidays to negotiate - please don't make them harder for those who already struggle	Honestly, I'm not sure it would. Possibly slightly easier to align with Reading terms	Please see my comment about the structure of this form favouring those who vote option 3!

Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Avoid the 2 week October half term	Better holiday options	2 week October half term is a time of year where it would be harder to care for children on holiday.
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Family logistics including work commitments would work better on this option. I do not like the 2 weeks off in October option as the weather is usually horrible and to try and entertain the kids in that period would be extremely difficult.	Family logistics including work commitments would work better on this option. I do not like the 2 weeks off in October option as the weather is usually horrible and to try and entertain the kids in that period would be extremely difficult.	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	would prefer a 2 week break in October however we need this to align with Reading and Wokingham to ensure we have Holiday Camps available.	Would prefer two weeks in October however would need to ensure there our holiday camps available if dates don't align with other local schools.	Please can schools confirm all inset dates with term dates so we can plan better, booking holidays in advance means we may not align with school dates announced later in the year. Thanks
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	I am a teacher in Reading LA, with one child in Wokingham LA and another in West Berkshire. Option 2 makes the most sense for our family.	As above.	Option 3 would put huge pressure on families. There is less to do in October, poorer weather and teacher parents would really miss out on spending half term with their children.
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	I work in a Wokingham school but my children are both in school on west Berkshire.	I wouldn't miss out on time with my family if our term dates are aligned. If they are different, this will impact my whole family as I won't be able to be with my children and my husband/parents will have to cover childcare.	

Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Suits us better		I would rather school start on 15th of September
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	To be honest, I'm happy with any of them. Option 3 is great as that would mean people can go on holiday cheaper than the actual October half term. Not that it works for me though as I work at Newbury College and we already have two weeks in October. However, as an employee, I won't get the first week off as it would be classed as an admin week. I would guess going with Reading would be better as they are our next closest town and share West Berkshire Council with them.	None really as whatever the term dates are, I would have off so I can look after my grandchildren as I am term time only staff member.	No
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Most convenient schedule. Kids in west Berkshire also have activities and attend holiday clubs in Berkshire	/a	No
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Makes sense to align with closest neighbours		

Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham		I'd rather keep things as they are - at the moment we're used to it.	Not a fan of option 3.
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	A 2 week half term in October is too long a break in what is the most productive term in the academic year.		
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	I work in Oxfordshire term time and it would be very difficult if the term my children follow is different to what I follow. Having them the same makes things like childcare a lot easier.	Makes it easier for childcare having us be off at the same time. It would be very difficult and stressful if we had different times off during the year	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Because if the Councils align as one Unitary Authority, it will be with Oxfordshire and Wokingham. It's also to reflect the health system within this area for children with SEND	It will make no benefit to us as a family given schools should be more aligned to everyday working families, so it cannot make it worse	There should be more push on supporting council led school clubs for any working parent and a consultation to rid of a broken session system that cares more about attendance scoring over the child and the family. Education should be more than just expensive half terms and parental juggles having to either pay through the nose for their children to be in clubs so us parents can work. Inset days should be factored into the holidays and

			not just on random days and bolted onto half term.
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham			
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	I work in an Oxfordshire school and my children go to a west berk's school so it helps if our term dates match	I won't need to find childcare on the days I'm in work and my kids are on holiday	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	It is vital that you align with Oxfordshire - I have a child in an Oxfordshire school and this would be so so costly and hard to manage if the holidays do not sync. Thank you	Negative! If not aligned with Oxfordshire - costly childcare / unable to work / unstable family dynamic as impact on sibling's time together	Please align with Oxfordshire!
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Several families in Newbury live/work on Reading Oxfordshire borders and to align with Wiltshire would be pointless and problematic. Likewise, a 2 week half term would cause issues for families around childcare.	I am a teacher in an Oxfordshire school. One of the few things keeping staff in school jobs is being able to have childcare covered for holidays. If lots of LEAs do different term dates this will further affect recruitment and retention. I think there should be a cross county approach here and hope you stick with Reading/Oxfordshire schools especially as John Rankin is part of the Maiden Erleigh Trust	

Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Easter will be in middle of school holiday.		
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	2 weeks for October half term is too long. Easter holiday should be later rather than earlier as most learning for exams is completed in the Spring term.		
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	My child's school is geographically aligned to Reading as that is where we live within the West Berkshire authority area. My work is in a Reading authority school. The other proposals especially option 3 would be a nightmare for childcare cover.	This will allow me to cover childcare more closely if it aligns to my workplace.	Please do not do option 3! This would be awful to try and manage as a parent. Option 1 makes no sense for Reading based schools
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Slightly later start back in September and I like the current format of one week half terms and a longer summer	I would be worried that a longer October half term would mean summer holiday are shorter in 2028 and I think children need that time off.	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	More time before easter is preferable	Makes the summer term, which can be tricky, shorter and easier to manage.	Either option 1 or 2 are good choices but 2 is my preference. Neither of them has too much negative impact
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	2 weeks in October is hard to find childcare for working parents	finding childcare for 2 weeks	no

Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham			
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Having children in schools in Thatcham and Reading means this alignment would allow for us to care for the children with minimal impact to finances and working lives	If holiday dates do not align, it can leave us in a position where one child is off school while another is still attending. This creates additional childcare pressures and can require extra paid childcare, changes to working arrangements, or parents needing to take separate periods of annual leave to cover different term dates. It also makes it much more difficult to organise family holidays, activities, and time together, as there are very limited overlapping dates available.	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	I don't want other families to struggle because of option 3. Either option 1 or option 2 is fine by me.	No impact	We are financially secure so half term timings will work for us however it's done. Please choose an option that works for struggling families.
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham			
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham			

Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham		2 weeks half term proposal in October would put a great deal of challenges and pressure for working parents such as us.	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Would allow my term dates and my child's term dates to coincide creating reduced need for extra childcare	Possible children at different schools having different holidays. M	Not enough info available to make an informed choice! Most schools have not circulated term dates beyond 2026/7
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Infrastructure not in place for a 2 week half term in October. Families given the opportunity to go on holiday when the weather is nicer by having a later Easter break.	Nicer holiday in Easter as the weather is better.	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham			
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Align with most of the surrounding counties.	Can plan half-term activities in a better way.	No
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	I Would rather have Easter as late as possible, as the later holiday will mean that there will be a better chance of weather being nicer. If it is earlier, it means I will have to pay to heat my home if temperatures are still low. Would also prefer a	Later Easter: warmer temperatures, nicer weather- more options for days out as a family. Would be less likely to use the heating as well. Negative: wouldn't get the two week half term in Autumn that would be a decent break during the longest term	Not option 1

	shorter Summer term of teaching. I am not opposed to option 3 either		
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	To marry up with work dates for my wife who is a school nurse in Reading. It it doesn't align, it means we wouldn't be able to have the break to spend as a family.	We would only get to spend the break as a family if its option 2.	N/a
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	i feel the dates during the easter holidays align better and help run for a smoother summer term where needs in school can be very manic with sats, transitions, sports days, plays and other summer activities	i feel that having a longer summer rather is beneficial for myself as i can find temporary summer jobs and also have time to enjoy the summer holidays	no
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	I am a school nurse in Reading and I really need my child's school calendar to align with mine for childcare reasons.	I will be able to spend much needed quality family time with my son. I work long hours during term time meaning we get to see very little of each other and holidays are a very important time for us. It will also have a financial impact if I have to find childcare arrangements within his holidays if I am working	Thank you for asking our opinion on this decision
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	I think that it is important for our holidays to be aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham.	My family would all be on the same holidays.	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	The majority of school staff have children who attend schools in all of these areas. We would not be able to manage being aligned with any other area.	Staff would be able to be in school as the same time as their children	

Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	I cannot cope with the different term dates. I have my children in school in Oxfordshire. I work at west Berkshire- I also work in West Berkshire schools. So, misalignment means I have childcare issues. It's hard enough without everyone doing their own thing. Really the whole country needs to align. We are merging with Oxfordshire hopefully. Therefore, we need to keep the same term dates as Oxfordshire school especially in the south along the Ridgeway which is where I live. Otherwise as soon as we become the Ridgeway council, we will need to change our term dates again. So selfish reasons but that's my view.	If you change the term dates around and my children end up on inset days when I am expected in work, I will use my parental leave, which is separate from annual leave to cover the mis alignment. So, you will be annoyed that I am not in work. But there's nothing else I can do. The holidays are hard enough to cover. At least include Oxfordshire in this change and then maybe we could all change together. Going forwards we will be one so it might be an idea to begin speaking to them about things now.	no.
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham	Best option, matches other local areas, as a grandparent who has grandchildren in Reading school it's important I have the same holidays as them.	I look after my grandchildren in school holidays so my son can work as he's self-employed. As I work in a school it's important that school holidays match.	
Option 2 - Aligned with Reading, Oxfordshire and Wokingham			
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	My other child is at Kennet School so would align with them.	To have the additional week would help us substantially not having 2 children with different term times. It's very difficult to manage currently	Would be amazing to align to Kennet School times.

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Can give us cheaper access to holiday in October given most of country still on 1 week (inflated flights/holiday prices)	Ability to get some proper time to reset - especially given first term, nice to have a chunkier break	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	In line with Kennet as this our secondary catchment	Our family would benefit from the opportunity for a later in the year cheaper abroad holiday so 2 weeks in October would simply be better on that basis	Reducing the length of summer holidays would likely be more beneficial to most families who work
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	September term is long. It's nice to have a 2 week break! Nicer to go on holiday without expensive payouts	Quality time. No fines from the government. Children can be kids and learn through play Children and teachers have a break!	I'm
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term			
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	As a parent of a child with SEN - the winter and Christmas period is very overwhelming and that initial return to school after 6 weeks off creates a lot of separation anxiety and upset. Having a longer pause in that first term would be helpful and beneficial to many parents I believe who are in the same boat. As a school Governor I also think a 2 week October half term break would reduce school absences and give parents slightly more flexibility at a time of year when many families chose to go away. I have found many holiday clubs are available for the span of two weeks and parents for our area often have	Positive impact is less anxiety for my children who find the return to school difficult to adjust to. Also, when evenings start to get dark and cold it's a lot for the younger primary children to adapt to and regulate. I think it enables families to have quality time and would really benefit us to have a much needed break during that busy and overwhelming time of year at school.	

	enough disposable income to cover this - especially when communicated in advance.		
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Whilst I like the idea of having two weeks half term in October. I am confused about whether the inset days in a block would cause issues for teachers and TAs using these days to prepare etc.	Ability to have a longer break in the October after what is normally a tiring first half term coming into a new school year would be a positive. May cause issues with schools using inset days in a block.	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Autumn term is long and hard. Breaks up a big chunk when the children are tired. 2 weeks is more enjoyable to spend family time together and cheaper for holidays.	Dependant on inset days. Currently my daughter's secondary school will do 2 weeks and my primary only have a week.	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term			
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	There are more staff and children's absences due to ill health in the autumn term, by allowing a 2 week holiday every one, staff and children would have time to fully recover and rest, whilst also hopefully managing to have some family time.	I'm always ill October half term. It would allow me more time To recover	No

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	The autumn terms are long and the children struggle with the 7 and 8 week terms during the winter months.	This would allow my family to go away on holiday during the half term whilst still allowing me time to plan and prepare for the next term.	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	This is a very interesting term in terms of illnesses. Having the additional days for the younger children to rest and recover from all the new germs that they are exposed to and also new staff who are building their immune systems too! Staff sickness is always a problem during the Autumn terms and hopefully with the additional time to rest we will all feel more rested to return for the busy Xmas period	As a working mother I would be able to spend time with my children maybe be able to travel without extortionate travel costs	I'm interested to find out if staff would have to work all the inset days- therefore have to find their own childcare!
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	I think random inset days in the term are harder to organise, an additional week in October would allow forward planning for childcare cover in what is already an exhausting term ahead.	Positive impacts are as previously mentioned	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	As a teacher, the autumn term is exhausting. I quite frequently am ill as soon as the Christmas holidays arrive. I believe this is due to exhaustion. Irregular half terms don't really make much of an impact as most planning is termly.	Potentially the positive impact of a two-week half term in October is that my children will not have an ill parent over Christmas.	Will this Will this consultation has to happen again once West Berkshire joins and becomes part of the Ridgeway local authority?
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term			

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Extra time at half term allows cheaper holidays while the weather is still ok.	Able to take off peak holidays at a cheaper cost.	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term			
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	The Autumn term is long but also draining. Children are adjusting to returning after a 6 week absence, settling into a new school or new set of classes with new teachers. Everyone needs a longer break. The benefit for parents is also additional cheaper (than summer) holiday prices. The benefit for local businesses is more footfall they can plan for whilst weather is still mostly mild. The downsides noted about food schemes and activities are valid but manageable, in fact schools could and should be offering more childcare through the half terms at primary level (this is reclaimable at 85% costs for parents on Universal Credit).	Cheaper holidays. I can't afford summer prices; I know holiday companies already adjust for differing half term dates and it won't be as cheap as off peak prices but it would still give a cheaper option that might make a first family holiday since 2019 an option.	

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Reducing the six-week summer holiday to four weeks and redistributing the remaining two weeks to create a longer October half-term break and a longer Christmas break could provide significant benefits for many children, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). For many SEND pupils, long periods away from school can lead to a loss of routine, structure, and consistency. Predictable daily routines are often essential for supporting emotional regulation, reducing anxiety, and maintaining progress in learning and social development. A six-week summer break can be particularly challenging, as pupils may struggle with the transition away from school and then face difficulties readjusting when they return in September. A shorter summer holiday would reduce the length of this disruption and help children maintain the skills and progress they have worked hard to achieve throughout the school year. Adding an extra week to the October half-term break could provide valuable recovery time at a point in the term when many children are becoming	As a parent of three children, two with ADHD and one with autism, I believe there would be significant benefits to having a two-week October half-term rather than the current one-week break. The first half of the autumn term can be particularly demanding for my children. By October they are often exhausted from the daily demands of school, including concentrating for long periods, managing friendships, coping with sensory challenges, and following routines that require a great deal of effort. While all children can become tired, I find that my children often reach a point of burnout much sooner. A two-week break would give them enough time to properly recover. Currently, by the time they have had a chance to decompress, adjust to being at home, and regulate themselves, it can feel as though the week is almost over. An extra week would allow them to genuinely rest, enjoy family time, and return to school feeling refreshed rather than still overwhelmed. For my child with autism, having additional time to recover from the sensory and social demands of school could help reduce anxiety and emotional overload. For my children with ADHD, a longer break would provide an opportunity to reset, spend time being active outdoors, and return to school better able to focus and engage in learning. I also feel that spreading holidays more evenly throughout the year would be beneficial. A shorter summer holiday combined with a longer October break would mean my children are not expected to cope with such a	I feel that reducing the summer holiday and spreading those weeks across the academic year would create a healthier balance between learning and rest, particularly for children with special educational needs who thrive on routine, predictability, and regular opportunities to recover from the demands of school life.

	tired and overwhelmed. This can be especially beneficial for SEND pupils who may experience increased fatigue from managing sensory, social, communication, or emotional demands in school. A longer autumn break could help prevent burnout and support better attendance, engagement, and wellbeing throughout the remainder of the term. Extending the Christmas holiday by an additional week may also offer benefits. The Christmas period is often busy, stimulating, and emotionally demanding for many children. SEND pupils can find changes to routine, social expectations, and sensory overload particularly challenging. A longer break would allow families more time to prepare for and recover from the festive period, helping children return to school feeling more settled and ready to learn. More evenly distributed school holidays throughout the year would create a better balance between learning periods and rest periods. Rather than one very long summer break, pupils would have more regular opportunities to recharge, which may support wellbeing,	long stretch of school at the start of the academic year when routines are new and expectations are high. I do recognise there could be challenges, particularly around childcare for working families. However, from my family's perspective, the wellbeing benefits would outweigh the drawbacks. A longer October break could help prevent burnout, reduce anxiety, and support my children in maintaining a more positive attitude towards school throughout the year. For children with additional needs, school can be incredibly rewarding but also incredibly demanding. Having a two-week October half-term would provide valuable time to rest, recover, and return ready to learn and thrive.	

	reduce anxiety, and improve overall educational outcomes. For SEND children in particular, shorter gaps between periods of learning can help maintain progress, minimise regression, and support smoother transitions throughout the academic year. While all pupils could benefit from a more balanced school calendar, the potential advantages for SEND children are especially significant, as consistency, routine, and manageable transitions are key factors in helping them thrive both academically and emotionally.		
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	A longer half term will also me to take a family holiday and lower cost and shorted second half terms will ease pressure on staff	Positive: Longer half term for family holiday, shorter half term 4/6 easing pressure at hardest point in school year Negative: Unknown inset days may not match mine BC and children's different school	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	October 2weeks break and marginal shorter summer break.	Meeting family abroad. INSET days within the holidays. More work to support meals and low income families.	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	This would split the very long term and mean for holidays in October it would give more options for families. I think the May half term should also be two weeks to really break the year well.	More options for families for holidays Less tired children through the term Better balance Reduced summer	

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	It gives us the opportunity to take a genuine break in October- as long as all four inset days are spread out. Also, the summer term is shorter which is good for everyone. Summer term is far too long, kids are hot, bothered and dysregulated. (So are the teachers)	It means a genuine break in October	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term		It'll give us more time to do things as a family	Please extend the Christmas period and take a week off the summer holidays. We need more time off with our children in the build up to Christmas
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	It very good for children's mental health to have a longer time of and to get ready for what is a long term	For families that struggle financially or adults' mental health And not got good home life	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Sickness of staff and students peeks during this term, I feel it may help with sickness days if this happened	None	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	I really think it's very beneficial to have a 2 week break here as it resets everything moving forward into one of the busiest terms ever within a school . The Christmas build up and nativity plays are intense .	Spend more quality time out if the summer holiday period	No

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	I like the 2 week half term, it's a good reset during the busy first term. It's nice to have time out of school when other schools are in term even if we sacrifice earlier starts. I used to work in a private school and the 2 week half term is common there and a bonus for cheaper holidays. Why should private school parents only have access to this as they do many other privileges?	Positive as I work in the same school as my children. Allows my husband to take holiday during a non-busy time as many of his colleagues are also parents and need to take holiday during half term. He works in a different county.	A wider discussion about term times nationally should be welcomed. Holidays could be spread more regularly throughout the year or extended weekends as many pupils struggle with the lead up to and after holiday periods
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	It gives people on low wages to take their children away for a holiday, rather than taking the out of education for this:		
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	I have stepchildren that attend kennet school and they get a 2 week October half term		
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Cheaper October holiday with better weather than at the end of the month.	As an ex teacher, I know how exhausted children get in the autumn term and having two weeks in the middle would really help. As a family it would also align better with extended family's holidays and give us the chance for a cheaper getaway in Europe.	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Prefer the idea of a 2 week break.	No significant impacts with any option.	Option 1 would be my 2nd choice.

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	I really like the idea of having the option to take my kids on holiday in the October half-term rather than the summer holidays. With climate changing making the summer so hot, especially in Europe, the option of two weeks in October gives the option of going in this break rather than the summer. I also like the idea of shorter terms and breaking up the summer holiday to allow this. Shorter terms defiantly help my children to stay focused and no so fed up with long terms dragging on.	Option 3 would definitely work better for us as it costs a lot less to holiday in October rather than the summer. It allows more options to visit countries as they are not so hot in October and it breaks up the term so they are not at school as long.	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	A two week October break will be better for people wanting holidays outside of summer period. Prefer the shortened final half term as they are generally on the slow down by that point anyway	Allow us to go long haul in October which one week is usually to short for. Will make taking annual leave easier.	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	I think the two weeks off in October allows for more quality family time and the ability to go on holiday at a time where it may be quieter and less expensive.	Financial gain - holidays More time together as a family - two solid weeks off in October	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term		Positive impact for children getting used to be back at school after a 6 week break and for new reception children to spend time with their families after starting school.	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Great time to travel and see family, no need to manage odd school closures	Positive in terms of travel and family time, perhaps difficult to arrange childcare with limited annual leave, HAF programme needed	No

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	The autumn term is so long and a two week half term would be so beneficial to the children, who need a break and the staff too.		
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term		It would be beneficial to be able to go on holiday during the October half term	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	2 week October half term fits with my own school holiday from my job as a teacher in a private school. It would allow me to take my family on holiday at a reduced cost over the 2 weeks and spend quality time with my family. I don't get home until 7pm in term time so holidays are very important to me where I get to see my own children.	More quality time together.	It's a great idea to have 2 weeks, the teachers will be so much more rested and able to fully commit to their inset days without them all being spread out through the whole year.
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	The combination of random extra days off dotted around the half terms makes things tricky it makes sense to have them all combined together.	It may allow us as a family to have some time away in half term and would also potentially allow uniformed groups (scouts, guides and other youth groups) to run vamps and trips during this time.	None
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term		Being able to have a holiday in October	

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	October.is often a great time for younger children to take an extended break from studies having settled into life in a new school year. This provides parents with a great opportunity to help children consolidate early school year learning over an extended period. In addition, with the rising unaffordable costs of holidays, having an extra week where the majority of the UK remain in school gives families a chance to holiday at a lower cost, likely to reduce periods of unauthorised absence when parents remove children from school for extended holidays overlapping half term breaks.	Positive impact on family with extended time away from school early in the school year	West Berkshire council need to recognise the likely positive attendance impacts of extending an Oct half term aligning with local academies. This would be a positive sign from the council to recognise that change is often required to make a positive difference to the lives of children and families
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Need longer for a holiday opportunity	Financial and not enough annual leave to spread out. Only having an entitlement of 20 days to be spread out all year	Need more support from council and government for the parents who work full time

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	I support Option 3. As a family, I believe Option 3 offers the greatest benefit because it provides a two-week October half-term, giving parents much more flexibility when planning holidays and family time. Travel costs during school holidays have risen significantly, and having a two-week break would allow families to travel outside the traditional peak week, potentially reducing the cost of holidays, flights, and accommodation. This option would help families who are unable to afford the high prices associated with the standard one-week half-term period. By spreading demand across two weeks, it could make family holidays more accessible and affordable, particularly for households facing increasing financial pressures. In addition, a longer October break can provide children and staff with a meaningful rest after the start of the academic year, which may support wellbeing and readiness for the remainder of the autumn term. While I understand there may be challenges around alignment with neighbouring authorities, I believe the increased flexibility,	As a low-income family, Option 3 would have a positive impact on us. The two-week October half-term would provide greater flexibility to plan affordable family holidays and activities, as we may be able to travel outside the most expensive peak holiday week. This could make family breaks more accessible at a time when many families are facing significant cost-of-living pressures. The longer break would also be beneficial for our family's wellbeing. The start of a new school year can be stressful and demanding for both children and parents, with new routines, expectations, and financial pressures. Having a longer break in October would provide an opportunity to rest, spend quality time together, and recharge before the remainder of the academic year. For our family, the additional flexibility, affordability, and wellbeing benefits of Option 3 would outweigh any potential disadvantages.	Not at this time.

	affordability, and wellbeing benefits for local families outweigh these concerns. For these reasons, I would like West Berkshire Council to adopt Option 3.		
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Easier to plan for and hopefully the ability to book a slightly cheaper and more affordable holiday. Would need wrap around / holiday provision which sadly doesn't cover, for example full 6 week holiday.	Positive; nice break for family time, option for holiday, possibly more affordable. Easier to get leave from Work if other schools in session. Negative: need to use leave, would need holiday club or childcare.	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	The summer holidays is too long for children especially with SEND needs and the return to routine.	This would enable my child to have more of a break to reset in October but also help support her get back into a routine as the summer is too long. Some children need to be occupied and to maintain this both financially and mentally is difficult on some parents.	

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	The autumn term is always a difficult one for students to adapt and for adults to make new working relationships with students. 2 weeks off in October would give both adults and students enough time to recover before the long half-term leading up to Christmas.	My daughter attends primary school and my wife and I both work in West Berkshire schools. It would give us more opportunity to spend quality time together in the October half term.	No.
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term			
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	This would mean a lot more quality time with my child, which as a teacher is quite rare as many shorter half terms include planning and preparing for the next term.	None.	It would allow families additional time for travel and experiences.
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Would fit our schedule better with work and allow us to potentially make the most of cheaper holiday rates.	As explained - fit work schedule better and give options to potentially utilise cheaper holiday options.	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	October half term is one of the most stressful for teachers with workload and also for wellbeing with the early dark evenings and dark mornings. It would help with staff workload and wellbeing	Better mental health and wellbeing - it is a difficult time with the dark nights and mornings and is very full on coming back in Sept	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	This is necessary for the students and staff. Christmas term is far too long and a two week break would be much better. Additionally, the later Easter break is much better for A level and GCSE students.	A two week half term often provides more childcare options for families and would allow another time of year to travel as my husband often struggles to get Easter and Christmas off work as all workers want these times but only parents would want October	

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	My children are always wiped out from tiredness and illness following the first term back after school holidays. One week is barely enough to actually recover, there is little actual rest or recuperation. Two weeks would be a good idea.	No impact	Thanks for consulting with the wider community
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	This is the term in which children always get poorly and this allows them time to rest and recover- including staff!	Neither a positive nor negative	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Cheap holidays mostly. We are not struggling for money, but can't afford holidays abroad because prices skyrocket in the school holidays.	Cheap holidays! And an easier start to the school year (autumn terms are tiring for my children).	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term			
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Can take the kids away for a cheaper holiday	Will have a huge financial impact	Please go for option 3
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Possibly cheaper holidays! Both children in West berks' schools	Have to find childcare regardless!	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	I believe children benefit from an extra few day's rest after the first half term and we would probably use this extended half term to take a cheaper holiday.	We think children could benefit from extra time off at half term.	No

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term		A welcome longer half term means more of a rest after going back to school in which can be a very busy time for children's metal health. Two week would also mean families can take advantage of lower priced holidays when others are back to school. This would mean less absences during term time.	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term			
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term			
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Two week half term is positive	Positive	None
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	It's a big change for the children when they start school in September so the 2 week break will give them a bit of time to settle and have a decent break after their life change in September	Positive impacts would be less stress on the children after September and also an extra week in October to treat the children to a little holiday to celebrate the next school year.	N/A
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	I support Option 3 because the two-week October half term offers a valuable break during a long autumn term, supporting pupil wellbeing and staff resilience. While there are some practical challenges, I believe the benefits of a longer autumn break outweigh them, especially if appropriate support is put in place for families who may be affected.	For my family, Option 3 would have a positive impact as it provides an extended break in October, allowing more family time and giving children an opportunity to rest and recharge during a long autumn term.	n/a

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Having an extra week of half term would allow us more options to be able to go on a family holiday without the hugely inflated holiday pricing that exists for standard school holidays. That said, I think a two week half term would be much more useful for families in the summer (May) half term than the October one, as the benefit of this time to be on holiday together would be better when the weather is nicer. I also prefer the slightly later Easter holiday again because it is more likely to give us better weather and means my younger son will qualify for preschool a term earlier than he would otherwise.	Our work schedules aren't known this far ahead and as working parents it may have an impact on us if we needed to work that week rather than be on holiday if there were not suitable holiday clubs available. So if this option proceeds, I would like the council to consider how they would ensure suitable holiday club childcare is available for those that need it if commercial options do not run that week due to other counties not being on holiday at the same time.	Please consider putting the two week half term in May instead if possible (even if that means using the earlier Easter dates).
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	The thought of a 2 week half term in October is appealing personally at it would provide opportunity to go on holiday outside of the expensive summer holidays. Also, it's the term that feels long and by Oct half term I always have a flagging child, so it would help break this up. .	A positive impact spreading the holiday over the year and also means able to spend time more meaningfully over the break as opposed to a week where everything feels rushed and the children don't feel recharged	No thankyou
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Allows for extended family holiday abroad and links with other family members who have this arrangement (schools on Isle of Wight)	Ability to have greater quality time together and reduce the costs for holiday. Enables easier childcare planning than ad hoc inset days.	No

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term		Extended holiday in October.	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	I believe half terms are sometimes too short for the children to reset. I feel the summer holiday is too long and the children do too, getting bored around the 4 week mark. However, 2 weeks like they get for Easter is usually just right and I feel this will balance out the year better, plus it makes family holidays a little easier with that extra time if people want to go away, probably making less unauthorised absences happen.	Personally, I have a son who is ASD and who has epilepsy and so he enjoys a break from school to recharge. He loves school and attends everyday but he does find it tiring more due to his conditions and by the time half terms come, he's mentally and physically exhausted and so giving that extra week off in October I feel would come as a blessing to him	I've felt for a long time that the school holidays needed re-evaluating. Times change, lifestyle patterns, conditions etc as well the pressure put on children now academically and so I think this small change would be a positive step for the children. I believe all parents could adjust but as we all know, a lot of people just like to moan for the sake of moaning instead of looking at the reason of change to the children.
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	It's a long term and the two week break would benefit the children.	Break for the children - good for wellbeing.	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Two things really, 1- the inset days in the late spring / early summer allow for extended weekend breaks for families who can take advantage. Which I really appreciate. So, for that my preference would be option 1. However, as a full time working mum. Option 3 would be more beneficial for lifestyle should that align with	Explained above Benefit would be for childcare clubs to be running to support the half term week. Negative - you're just placing one child from learning and care, to someone else needing to look after them. Especially for those who financially cannot afford holidays within term dates.	No

	holiday clubs being open etc. As Inset days cause more hassle being random with trying to take leave or unpaid holiday to cover them. Instead of seeing it as a full holiday where clubs would allow for childcare options.		
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	As full time working parents, maximising time with our son is our number one priority. A two week half term in October provides more flexibility to be able to enjoy a family holiday outside of the main summer period. I believe that inset days can be incorporated into the current holiday schedule, these additional days are sometimes difficult to manage for working parents due to lack of holiday clubs in these days	As previously entered	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	A two week break provides sufficient time for a reset following a busy start to the school year. I also would value to opportunity to have a holiday outside the standard school holiday week.	Positive impact on mental health and wellbeing of children, who will be able to have a proper break after a busy start to the year	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	This would make it more affordable to take my child on holiday without having to take her out of school in term time.	Huge impact - we would afford to go on holiday without having to choose between either taking child out or simply not having a holiday at all.	

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term		As a parent of a SEN child who massively struggles in the run up to Xmas, a longer half term break would be great. This may also enable us to go on holiday out of term time. However, it would be better to have this and a balanced spring term as this helps with routine and also when everyone is struggling with winter illnesses, and not becoming exhausted between school holidays breaks	Have a longer October half term break and a balanced spring term, this would be beneficial
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	I think a 2 week October half term makes more sense than random inset days throughout the term. At least parents can plan and potentially go away during this time, leaving more options for holidays etc than taking kids out of school	The positive will be it feels like more time with your child, but I do appreciate childcare could be an issue I would like the option as it gives me more time for a longer holiday, outside of the main 6 week and easter breaks.	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term			
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term			
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	term up to Christmas is very long, so a long break is nice	none	no
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	The longer October half term works well for families to get away on a holiday at cheaper prices the first week. This works well for those working in schools and families of children attending those schools that cannot afford school holiday prices	Positive - will be able to go on holiday with my family	

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	The school I work at has a two week October half term so I could take my children on holiday	I can take my children on holiday in October	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Offering this allows families to access cheaper holidays and minimises risk of them missing education to allow their family a chance at a holiday. It is also very difficult to get childcare on inset days.	I would take 2 weeks of leave in October and have a cheaper family holiday and I wouldn't need to scrape around in the dust to find childcare on inset days	No, this change (option 3) is great. Please change to this
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term			
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term			
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Weather can still be good in the UK and likely it be able to get a more reasonably priced holiday in October vs the crazy prices in August	As long as childcare options are available to match the holidays then I can't see any negatives. Ideally would like all schools to follow in the local area for all children to match	I would like 3 weeks at Christmas, 2 weeks in May and 2 weeks in October and only 4 weeks over the summer. The 6 weeks is too long for the children to be off school
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Other children in independent school so aligns with their holiday.	Would be able to go on holiday.	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	I'd like all west Berkshire schools to be aligned	I would be ok as I work term time so I would assume my work would then align with any school changes	This survey could be sent to schools to send to parents
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term		more of a fun time apart from studying	no

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term		Longer to take time together in October half term.	None
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term		Having a 2 week holiday in October would have a positive impact on my family as this would allow us to go away on a seaside vacation when the weather is still good and the prices are lower.	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term		Positive - breaks up the long term between sept-December better Negative- lack of holiday childcare provision	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term			
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	My son goes to an academy school which has already moved to a two week October half term.	It aligns with my son's academy school that has already moved to a two week half term. Means I don't have to find a full weeks' worth of additional childcare.	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Shortened summer to give families a longer October holiday	Less childcare needed in the summer and 2 week Oct break will support transition of starting the new year - autumn term is a busy and a long one.	Aligning holidays with neighbouring local authorities will support families and teachers who teach or have Children going to different LAs
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term		Summer holidays are too long. It is hard for children to get back into a routine after a long summer hols. It is hard for parents who work full time to find childcare solutions. Having a 2 week holiday in October will break up a long term and mean that the summer holidays are more manageable.	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term		Having a longer half term in Oct means we get to spend more time as a family. Due to spouses work commitments we can't holiday together very often	No

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term			
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Hopefully we can take advantage of finding a cheap holiday somewhere and not pay extortionate prices during other term breaks. Parents can take their children out of school and get a small fine, yet staff cannot take time off and take advantage of cheaper holidays, we have to pay double the price	See previous statement about cheaper holidays. School staff should be allowed to take 1 holiday during term time, to be able to afford a cheaper holiday. We have the hardest job, yet the lowest pay, and are expected to pay double the price for a family holiday, yet parents pay a small fine to take their children out of school, to save hundreds on a holiday. There are no perks to working in schools, awful pay, job expectations getting worse,	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	We would like to have an abroad holiday when it isn't as hot. We feel this helps with our mental health in the winter. It would also be nice to have the Easter holiday when the weather might be nicer.	None	We feel that children should be able to have more flexibility with days off and not have a threat of a fine. My daughter has ADHD and gets burnout and needs an odd day to recharge when required.
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	One of my children in secondary school has 2 weeks off in October so this would make it easier to align my younger daughter's school holiday to be the same.	Childcare or holiday to be at the same time for both of my children would make life easier	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Both children attend west Berkshire schools. Working parents - would allow a holiday with cheaper prices.		
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Improves options for holidays abroad	Ability to go abroad	

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Aligning with all the neighbouring areas means no chance of a quiet time off	booking a holiday out of the regular periods all the neighbouring areas adhere to would be great for a) a greater chance of getting time off work as most parents scrabble for the same week off as each other and can therefore get their holiday denied b) holidays may even be cheaper for the 2nd week that other areas don't select	Easter holiday really needs to be standardised so it's always a regular 6 week school, 2 weeks holiday, 6 weeks school rather than varying every year. Christmas and Easter could both be extended to 3 weeks and Summer reduced by 2 weeks, saving the school on heating during the cold periods and benefitting the students as per Q3 above.
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	All 3 half term should be two weeks with a shorted summer holiday. This will help families be able to go abroad at a more reasonable cost. It's easier to find childcare are every few months rather than in a big block. Also helps to spread out the cost of childcare over the year.	Will spread childcare costs more evenly not have huge bill for July/August with a little peak Oct/Feb/May and slightly bigger ones Apr/Dec. Also, children are given homework to do over half terms, exams and performed not long after return from half term holidays. The children need a break to be able to switch off. Currently the only times a family can go on a two week break is Easter, summer holidays and Christmas all when prices rocket. By giving two weeks half terms, helps lower income families be able to afford a holiday at a better price. My child has ASD, the current way school breaks are done confuses and cause huge dysregulation. Never knowing if they off for 1,2,3 or 6 weeks off then the return to school the dysregulation whilst they settle back into the routine by having 5 2 week breaks with the remaining weeks off in Aug is slightly easier to process/prepare/explain for.	Little and often is better than peaks and troughs.

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	More flexible holidays	Just positive, better holiday options	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Better prices for a proper family holidays as compared to Christmas or Easter break	Quality time	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Coming back after the long summer is challenging at the best of times, especially coming into winter. The winter term is a long one and full of germs and illness. Having 2 weeks off for the kids in October acts as a good braker for this. This is especially as the Xmas break is usually not a break for anyone and all are exhausted after this holiday. In October the weather is usually good enough and those that can are able to go on holiday with more time. Those I know in other areas that have this option really like it.	As above I see nothing but benefits for the kids. It may not align with all my kids in different schools along with my work but I would find a way to deal with it for the reasons stated above.	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	The first two options are much longer terms and this will be exhausting. Two week October half-term would be preferable for the children to rest. We don't need to align out term dates with the rest of the neighbouring counties.	It will have a positive impact if option 3 is chosen.	Please use option 3. Thanks!
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term		Greater possibility to visit family overseas in October half term	

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	A two week break in the October half term has been proven in my older child's school to have positive effects on behaviour. His school report fewer behaviour incidents after a two week break (a one week break showed little impact). It makes sense to do this in the first term of the year which can often feel exceptionally long for both teachers and pupils. This model also has improved attendance as it gives parents an extra two week window of time to take a holiday abroad.	We will be able to take children on holiday in a less expensive typically 'peak week' or visit family further afield outside of main school summer break.	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	I am an involved grandparent and I would appreciate a longer autumn half term holiday.	More flexibility to take holidays with the family - no temptation to take children out of school.	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	We support a longer October half-term break, as it would provide families with greater flexibility to plan holidays outside the busiest peak travel periods. For younger primary pupils in particular, we feel that an earlier and more substantial break after the start of term may also support a smoother transition from the long summer holiday. A shorter initial stretch of term could help children settle more positively, maintain motivation, and reduce pressure or fatigue during the autumn term. While	One potential benefit of the preferred option for our family is the increased flexibility to travel slightly outside the busiest European school holiday periods, which may help reduce travel congestion and costs. For example, a longer October half-term could create opportunities for quieter off-peak travel, including possible trips to France, although we have not made any fixed plans and remain flexible overall. More generally, we feel that having some variation from neighbouring holiday schedules may provide families with greater choice and flexibility when planning breaks and activities throughout the year.	

	childcare considerations are understandably important when discussing a longer half-term break, we have found that there are already a range of good holiday club and childcare options available locally, which we believe helps to offset this concern for many families.		
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	As a member of staff, a two week holiday in October is a very good option to split up the longest term (autumn) and recover from the first half and prevent your body battery running really low and falling ill at the end of the second half-term (at Christmas). The term before Christmas is always packed with activities. I do think that one of the weeks should NOT be made up of inset days but taken off the summer holidays instead. Also, the spring terms in this option (3) should be balanced as shorter terms are just as stressful as longer ones.	Balanced terms would be better as a six week term is more manageable. A longer October holiday allows my family to visit family abroad and still have time for resting and preparing for the next term.	Why is there no option with 2 weeks holiday and a balanced spring term? For the summer term / summer holidays, the changing climate should be taken into consideration- often, the weather is hot in June and July but turns cold in August.
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	The winter term is a difficult term for the children (dark, cold and full of illnesses). Allowing a 2 week break gives a much needed	It would allow us to go on holiday in October when it's cheaper and the weather is cooler in Europe	I think generally we need to rethink the school year, holidays, term dates etc. It is very outdated and

	rest and also the opportunity to take some holiday.		doesn't reflect modern education, communities, weather or family life.
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	cheaper family holiday in October as both Easter and Summer holidays are exorbitant and that means we never have an opportunity to take the kids on great family holiday.	Positive impact will be enough time during October to take a family holiday before the winter sets in and it will be more affordable than an Easter or Summer break.	I think Easter and October should have a two week break, other half terms of 1 week and a summer break of 5/6 weeks.
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Gives parents the choice of going away in a week which is not priced at peak prices	No impact	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	This would give families the option of taking a two week break at the October half term. We always stuck to school holidays and did not take our child out during term time. Had there been a two week break at October half term, we would have waited and taken our main holiday then as the temperatures around the Med are much cooler and more pleasant at this time of year. Holidaying in temperatures of high 30s is not that much fun to sightsee. Certainly Kennet. Francis Baily and Whitelands academy have now switched to a two week half term which has been well received by the parents.	Temperatures abroad usually more bearable (not in the high 30s), possibly slightly cheaper holidays, but the more schools that move to a two October half term, then the more expensive holidays will get. Would suggest that there is a core week, but primary/secondary schools co-ordinate so may be staggering the two weeks the schools have off - say a Wednesday - Wednesday (not 2 x Monday-Friday weeks)	Great that the council are looking at possible options.

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Would be nice to have a long holiday that's cheaper to go away.	Holiday are extremely expensive during the summer and this gives more options	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Because holidays in peak school holidays are becoming unaffordable. It would be nice to have the option of a cheaper holidays during October when other LA schools are in session.	As above	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Saves having lots of off days here and there tagged on to other holidays. Makes the break more worthwhile	Will allow lower income families to get cheaper holidays in school holiday in October therefore less unauthorised time off	No
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Better for staff wellbeing	Extra childcare required. But more flexibility for holidays.	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Because my own school I work for has a 2 week October break and this would allow for holidays together. I would also be happy with option 1	None	It would be best tl align with other schools in the locale.
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	This aligns with Kennet School were my older child attends. This would make it easier for us to go away with them being off at the same time	Holidays aligned to allow us to go away together	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	2 week half term break in October would be better	Cheaper holidays during term time if its not the same as other schools etc	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	A longer break	More time to enjoy activities and doesn't affect our jobs or wages	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	A longer break for the children will improve mental wellbeing for children who suffer	My children prefer half terms and enjoy spending time with family and enjoy activities and rest breaks	No

	within school with lack of Sen support		
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term		.	.
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term		Cheaper October holiday prices. Less conflict with my wife who is a teacher.	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term		There are little to no negative impacts on our family, but the added benefit that we may be able to take a family break in October. We can't normally afford to go on holiday as a family during school holidays, but since this extra week would be "off peak" we might be able to afford it.	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term			
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	October is a great time of year to have a longer break, with the shorter days. The Autumn term is long so splitting it up would be advantageous.	Positive: More time together as a family.	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Options to take child on holiday to see family who live abroad at a more reasonable price.		
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	Cheaper holidays within the easter break and October with the 2 weeks option, gives a bigger break within the autumn/ winter terms which can feel extremely long and especially with neurodiverse children be tiring.	No negative impacts but can understand it may have an impact on families that need to source and pay for extra childcare	

Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	The two week October half term would give a period for families to go on holiday outside of the traditional school holiday periods therefore reducing the costs. This is a big factor with the current cost of living.	We would be able to save a significant amount of money on booking a holiday	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term		Cheaper holidays. Less time out of school	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term		It would be lovely to have 2 weeks off after the first term back at work which is always particularly long and difficult	
Option 3 - Includes a two week October half-term	I feel that the Autumn term can feel very long for children and young people and a two-week break in the middle is beneficial for their health and wellbeing. It also allows for the possibility of family holidays outside of peak times.	It would give my son longer to rest in the middle of a long term. He is less likely than to have time off due to illness.	

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