

Tuesday 5th November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: TERM DATES 2025/2026 - INCLUDING ARRANGEMENT FOR A TWO-WEEK OCTOBER HALF TERM BREAK

I am writing to share the confirmed term dates for the 2025-26 school year, including an important update regarding the October half term.

In October 2025, we will be introducing a two-week half term break. The decision to extend the October half term to two weeks has been made with careful consideration for the well-being of our staff and pupils. By providing teachers and children with additional time for rest and rejuvenation during the longest school term, we aim to improve morale, reduce absenteeism, and ultimately enhance the quality of education.

This approach aligns with a change already adopted by a number of local authorities, many Trusts nationally, and is in place at some of our other schools.

Importantly for your child, the number of days on which children are taught across the year will not change as we have ensured that those days are made up at another time in the year. The dates of the school calendar have simply been amended to accommodate a two week break in October whilst ensuring that the number of teaching days children receive is equitable to previous years.

The full 2025-26 term dates are attached. For more information, please refer to the attached FAQs, or feel free to contact the school office with any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Lloyd
Interim Headteacher



RE: Term Dates 2025/26

Autumn Term 2025	
Term 1 Begins	Term 1 Ends
Children return on Monday 1st September 2025	Children's last day of school Friday 17th October 2025
INSET Days: Thursday 28th August - Friday 29th August 2025	
Half Term: Monday 20th October – Friday 31st October 2025	
Term 2 Begins	Term 2 Ends
Children return on Monday 3rd November 2025	Children's last day of school Friday 19th December 2025
INSET Day: Friday 28th November 2025	
Spring Term 2026	
Term 3 Begins	Term 3 Ends
Children return on Monday 5th January 2026	Children's last day of school Friday 13th February 2026
Half Term Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2026	
Term 4 Begins	Term 4 Ends
Children return on Monday 23rd February 2026	Children's last day of school Friday 27th March 2026
Summer Term 2026	
Term 5 Begins	Term 5 Ends
Children return to school Monday 13th April 2026	Children's last day of school Friday 22nd May 2026
Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May 2026	
Half Term Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2026	
Term 6 Begins	Term 6 Ends
Children return on Monday 1st June 2026	Children's last day of school Tuesday 21st July 2026
INSET Day: Friday 19th June 2026	



TERM DATES 2025/2026 - INCLUDING ARRANGEMENT FOR A TWO-WEEK OCTOBER HALF TERM BREAK

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What change is taking place?

Inspire Partnership are planning to extend the autumn half term break to two weeks. Responsibility for setting term dates lies with the Trust.

2. Why is the change happening?

Following the [Trust's commitment to the DfE's Wellness and Workload Charter](#) and staff feedback on relational wellness and workload, the Trust confirmed an initiative to extend the October half term to two weeks for 2025/2026, as many other Trusts currently do.

The period between the end of the summer break and the start of the Christmas holiday is 16 weeks - the longest stretch of the academic year. Many schools nationally have now implemented a two week autumn break to support pupil behaviour and the physical, emotional and mental health of both staff and pupils. Two schools in the Trust already have a two week autumn break; this change would align all school holidays and support the alignment of staff working days.

An added benefit of this strategy is that it creates a second week during which staff and pupils' families can take a more affordable holiday. We are very clear that we do not authorise pupil absence for holidays during school terms, and we know that a major reason for families making such requests is the higher cost of holidays during school holiday periods.

When surveyed by a number of local authorities and trusts, parents are usually in favour of the change.

Our overriding objective is to provide high quality education throughout the year for all pupils.

3. Will this affect the length of the academic calendar year?

This change will ensure that all children within all our schools receive an equal number of days teaching each year, in line with the number children have received in previous years - their teaching days will not be reduced.

Children and staff are not receiving more holiday - it is the overall pattern of the annual holiday that is changing.

4. What impact will this have on childcare arrangements?

The two-week break will extend across the usual break for the local authority, so the regular half-term activities will be available to families during this week. Schools will promote these local activities early in the autumn term 2025.

5. Will there be a negative impact on pupils' education or well-being?

A longer break should enable children and staff to better rest half way through the longest term. According to some national surveys on this topic, respondents who have experienced the extended October half-term say it has contributed positively to both staff and student wellbeing.

6. How will this affect teachers and school staff?

Teachers and school staff will enjoy the same two week break. Staff training will not take place at this time. The number of working days in the school year will not change for teachers and school staff; the pattern of the holidays is the change taking place.

7. How are the holidays being changed?

For children, none of the other holidays in the year will change from the usual pattern.

8. Will this change be applied to all schools?

This change is across all schools that are members of the Inspire Partnership Academy Trust.

9. How far in advance will we be informed of these changes?

This change will first take place in the 2025-26 academic year, starting in September 2025.

10. Will there be any financial benefits?

A longer break in the autumn will enable parents who would like to take holidays more choice in dates and prices.

11. What research has been done to support these changes?

As a Trust we researched and found that many other Trust's and local authority schools have already implemented the two-week October half-term, and report the success of this initiative for both staff and pupils.