

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Education
Date:	23 March 2015
Title:	School term and holiday dates for 2016/17
Reference:	6481
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Martin Goff (Head of Information, Transport and Admissions)

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Email: martin.goff@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to inform the Executive Member for Education on the need to decide the pattern of school term and holiday dates for school year 2016/17 and to note the outcomes of the consultation process that has been followed.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. It is the responsibility of a local authority to schedule a school year which provides the statutory 190 pupil days and 195 teacher days in voluntary controlled and community schools. The structure for delivering this entitlement has been the subject of national and local debate in recent years.
- 2.2. The Local Government Association (LGA) National Standing Committee on the School Year has, in the past, been active in seeking to establish a National School Year but this process has now ended.
- 2.3. Hampshire teachers' professional associations, represented by the Conditions of Service Working Party (CoSWoP), have worked closely with officers of the local authority over several years in order to secure an agreed approach to setting dates for the county's schools.
- 2.4. Establishing more balanced term lengths with regular breaks supports an aim of the corporate strategy, to maximising wellbeing, by helping schools and families to plan learning more effectively. Another aim, Hampshire, safer and more secure for all, is supported by achieving agreement on dates across the county, so that schools and their communities can work effectively together in school and out of school hours.
- 2.5. Children benefit from good attendance in school; in particular it supports educational achievement and lays the foundation for a positive contribution to society and economic well-being. Properly structured periods of learning and

rest help children to remain healthy, enjoy their school time and achieve more. The publication of dates well in advance enables families to plan holidays and arrange childcare so that school attendance need not be compromised.

- 2.6. The Government has proposed in Schedule 14 of its Draft Deregulation Bill that schools shall set their own school year. The Bill is progressing through the House of Lords and has its third reading on 3 March 2015. There is no date for this to be enacted. It is possible that schools will be required to set their own 2016/17 school year and if so this proposed model would be a good basis for that discussion.

3. Outline of Proposal

- 3.1. It is recommended that the Executive Member for Education approves the school term and holiday dates that are supported by CoSWoP and are set out in Appendix 1 of the report, for the school year 2016/17.

4. Current Position

- 4.1. For the school year 2016/17 Hampshire County Council (HCC) and representatives from CoSWoP devised a pattern of school term and holiday dates. It included all the features that are an aim of the consultation in Hampshire.
- 4.2. The proposed pattern of holiday and term dates is shown in Appendix 1. Key features of the proposed pattern are:
- Half term lengths that are consistent with the usual school year pattern taking account of Christmas, Easter and summer GCSE and A Level examinations timetable.
 - A four day first week of the Autumn Term and a three day final week in the summer term. Where part weeks are necessary it is preferred that they have at least three days.
- 4.3. The pattern in Appendix 1 was recommended to schools and they were invited to comment using a Schools Communication dated 12 January 2015, comments being required by 25 February 2015. In total, 4 responses were received.
- 4.4. The responses suggested:
- Extending the Autumn term end date to 21 December 2016 and a later start to the Spring term 2017.
 - An earlier February 2017 half term
 - Remove the 2 odd days at the end of the school year 2017

These responses are shown in Appendix 2.

- 4.5. It should be noted extending the autumn term would create a part week at the end of the autumn term and a shorter part week (currently 4 days) at the start of the spring term. The February half term could be moved to the earlier date as suggested, the current proposal allows for 6 full weeks in each half term i.e. 6

weeks and 4 days in the first half and 6 weeks in the second half term. Whereas the earlier week suggestion creates a 5 week 4 days and 7 weeks split. The 2 days cannot be removed and easily fitted into a pattern of term dates. In previous years where there has been a similar part week ending schools have used Inset days to avoid issues of poor attendance in a part week.

- 4.6. Although the schools' suggested revisions are possible the proposed pattern is still recommended to the Executive Member as best meeting the requirements that are applied to designing the school year.

5. Recommendation(s)

- 5.1. It is recommended that the Executive Member for Education approves the school term and holiday dates that are supported by representative members of Hampshire County Council's (HCC) Conditions of Service Working Party (CoSWoP) and are set out in Appendix 1 of the report, for the school year 2016/17.

SEPTEMBER 2016					
M	5*	12	19	26	
T	6	13	20	27	
W	7	14	21	28	
T	1	8	15	22	29
F	2	9	16	23	30
S	3	10	17	24	
S	4	11	18	25	

OCTOBER 2016					
M	3	10	17	24	31*
T	4	11	18	25	
W	5	12	19	26	
T	6	13	20	27	
F	7	14	21#	28	
S	1	8	15	22	29
S	2	9	16	23	30

NOVEMBER 2016					
M	7	14	21	28	
T	1	8	15	22	29
W	2	9	16	23	30
T	3	10	17	24	
F	4	11	18	25	
S	5	12	19	26	
S	6	13	20	27	

DECEMBER 2016					
M	5	12	19	26	
T	6	13	20	27	
W	7	14	21	28	
T	1	8	15	22	29
F	2	9	16#	23	30
S	3	10	17	24	31
S	4	11	18	25	

JANUARY 2017					
M	2	9	16	23	30
T	3*	10	17	24	31
W	4	11	18	25	
T	5	12	19	26	
F	6	13	20	27	
S	7	14	21	28	
S	1	8	15	22	29

FEBRUARY 2017					
M	6	13	20	27*	
T	7	14	21	28	
W	1	8	15	22	
T	2	9	16	23	
F	3	10	17#	24	
S	4	11	18	25	
S	5	12	19	26	

MARCH 2017					
M	6	13	20	27	
T	7	14	21	28	
W	1	8	15	22	29
T	2	9	16	23	30
F	3	10	17	24	31
S	4	11	18	25	
S	5	12	19	26	

APRIL 2017					
M	3	10	17	24*	
T	4	11	18	25	
W	5	12	19	26	
T	6	13	20	27	
F	7#	14	21	28	
S	1	8	15	22	29
S	2	9	16	23	30

MAY 2017					
M	1	8	15	22	29
T	2	9	16	23	30
W	3	10	17	24	31
T	4	11	18	25	
F	5	12	19	26#	
S	6	13	20	27	
S	7	14	21	28	

JUNE 2017					
M	5*	12	19	26	
T	6	13	20	27	
W	7	14	21	28	
T	1	8	15	22	29
F	2	9	16	23	30
S	3	10	17	24	
S	4	11	18	25	


JULY 2017					
M	3	10	17	24	31
T	4	11	18	25#	
W	5	12	19	26	
T	6	13	20	27	
F	7	14	21	28	
S	1	8	15	22	29
S	2	9	16	23	30


AUGUST 2017					
M	7	14	21	28	
T	1	8	15	22	29
W	2	9	16	23	30
T	3	10	17	24	31
F	4	11	18	25	
S	5	12	19	26	
S	6	13	20	27	

Bank and Public Holidays 2015/2016

Christmas Day	25 December 2016	Easter Monday	17 April 2017
Boxing Day	26 December 2016	May Day Holiday	1 May 2017
New Year's Day Holiday	2 January 2017	Spring Bank Holiday	28 May 2017
Good Friday	14 April 2017	Summer Bank Holiday	28 August 2017

* First day after break

 School Holidays

 Bank Holidays and National Holidays

Last day before break

** see overleaf

Autumn Term 2016 starts on Monday 5 September 2016 and ends on Friday 16 December 2016
 (Half term from Monday 24 October to Friday 28 October 2016)

Spring Term 2017 starts on Tuesday 3 January 2017 and ends on Friday 7 April 2017
 (Half term from Monday 20 February to Friday 24 February 2017)

Summer Term 2017 starts on Monday 24 April 2017 and ends on Tuesday 25 July 2017
 (Half term from Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June 2017)

Term	Start date	End Date
Autumn 2016	5 September 2016	16 December 2016
	Half term 24 – 28 October 2016	
Spring 2017	3 January 2017	7 April 2017
	Half term 20 - 24 February 2017	
Summer 2017	24 April 2017	25 July 2017
	Half term 29 May – 2 June 2017	

Please note that the dates as published are correct.

It has now been agreed and confirmed that 5 September 2016 is the start date for the Autumn Term 2016/17.

Please also note that the first day of the Autumn Term in September 2017 will not be determined until the 2017/18 timetable has been consulted upon and approved in the Spring Term 2016.

Burton, Julia (Childrens Services)

From: H Dunn <H.Dunn@heatherside-jun.hants.sch.uk>
Sent: 12 January 2015 10:20
To: Burton, Julia (Childrens Services)
Subject: School dates 2016 to 2017

Dear Julia

In response to the Schoolcomms we would query why February half Term 2017 has been put a week later than it is usually? This would be confusing for parents and create the longer of the two half terms immediately after Christmas. We would suggest that have the seven week bock after Feb Half Term (with the holiday during the w/ 13th Feb) would make more effective use of learning time. We ahve also noted that the summer holiday 2017 is going to be less than 6 full weeks again.

Regards

Hannah Dunn

Mrs Hannah Dunn

Headteacher

Heatherside Junior School

Reading Road South

Fleet

Hampshire

GU52 7TH

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Burton, Julia (Childrens Services)

From: K Sangway <K.Sangway@manorfield-jun.hants.sch.uk>
Sent: 12 January 2015 17:49
To: Burton, Julia (Childrens Services)
Subject: School dates

Dear Julia,

I am writing with feedback from my staff about the proposed term dates for 2016/17.

Our suggestion is that the autumn term is currently due to finish too early (16th December) and that it needs to finish later so that we could come back to school later than the 3rd January for the Spring term. I think that lots of schools would feel the same. The difficulty we have when we break up for Christmas too early is that the Christmas celebrations have to start too early and then the children get too excited too early, impacting on quality learning. Equally, when we come back to school too early in January, the children are still too tired following Christmas and New Year. Our vote would be to finish for Christmas closer to Christmas and to come back after Christmas as late as possible.

This is our feedback.

Regards,

Kirstie-Anne Sangway

Head teacher,

Manor Field Junior School, Basingstoke

Burton, Julia (Childrens Services)

From: M Jones <M.Jones@hiltonbury-jun.hants.sch.uk>
Sent: 16 January 2015 15:33
To: Burton, Julia (Childrens Services)
Subject: Consultation on School Year

Hi Julia

Sam has asked me to email to say that the general consensus amongst staff here at Hiltingbury Junior is that the Christmas break in 2016 is a little too early, the 21st would be a better date as last day and returning slightly later in the new year.

Have a lovely weekend.

Maggie

Maggie Jones
Business Manager
HILTINGBURY JUNIOR SCHOOL (DFE2274)
Hiltingbury Road, Chandlers Ford, SO53 5NP
Tel: 023 80261808 Fax: 023 8027340

Burton, Julia (Childrens Services)

From: J Armstrong <J.Armstrong@farnboroughgrange.hants.sch.uk>
Sent: 28 January 2015 09:09
To: Burton, Julia (Childrens Services)
Subject: 16/17 dates

Hi Julia

As school we really disapprove of having 2 odd days in the week at the end of the school year, surely these can be spread out some where else; especially as these are not useful dates for INSET and some parents take them anyway as holidays!!

Regards

Jane

Jane Armstrong

Headteacher

Farnborough Grange Nursery Infant Community School

j.armstrong@farnboroughgrange.hants.sch.uk

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes/no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes/no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes/no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
OR	
This proposal does not link to the Corporate Strategy but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:	
<i>NB: Only complete this section if you have not completed any of the Corporate Strategy tick boxes above. If it is not applicable, please delete.</i>	

NB: If the 'Other significant links' section below is not applicable, please delete it.

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

1.1.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?