

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.