

School Term Dates 2020/21

Consultation

School term and holiday dates are set by the council for our community and voluntary controlled schools and maintained nursery schools. Governing bodies set the term dates for foundation, trust and voluntary aided schools, free schools and academies. The total number of term days should be 190.

The mix of schools locally and in neighbouring authorities presents complexities, and means it is difficult to achieve a consistent set of dates which work for all parents and schools. In recognition of the complexities this consultation sets out two possible options for 2020/2021 term dates. We are keen to seek your views on what option you prefer most.

*Please note that whilst 190 days are required to be set the proposals below provide 194 days, therefore allowing schools to allocate four training days within these proposed dates, one further training day should be allocated during the school holiday dates.

Option 1

	Open morning of	Close at the end of the afternoon session on	Total days per half term
Autumn Term 2020	Thursday 3 September 2020	Thursday 22 October 2020	36
	Monday 2 November 2020	Friday 18 December 2020	35
Spring Term 2021	Monday 4 January 2021	Friday 12 February 2021	30
	Monday 22 February 2021	Thursday 1 April 2021	29
Summer Term 2021	Monday 19 April 2021	Friday 28 May 2021	29
	Monday 7 June 2021	Friday 23 July 2021	35
			194

This option:

- has a 14 week autumn term, with shorter and more evenly balanced spring and summer terms. Shorter terms can be helpful with primary aged children, who are adapting to the school day
- is similar to the dates proposed by Buckinghamshire County Council, supporting any Milton Keynes families who may work in schools or have children in schools in Buckinghamshire
- means that the Easter bank holiday is at the start of the spring half term

Option 2

	Open morning of	Close at the end of the afternoon session on	Total days per half term
Autumn Term 2020	Thursday 3 September 2020	Thursday 22 October 2020	36
	Monday 2 November 2020	Friday 18 December 2020	35
Spring Term 2021	Monday 4 January 2021	Friday 12 February 2021	30
	Monday 22 February 2021	Friday 26 March 2021	25
Summer Term 2021	Monday 12 April 2021	Friday 28 May 2021	34
	Monday 7 June 2021	Thursday 22 July 2021	34
			194

This option:

- has a 14 week autumn and summer term, with a much shorter spring term. A longer summer term has potential to support secondary age pupils, providing them with the opportunity for revision time ahead of commencing exams in the summer term
- is similar to the dates proposed by Central Bedfordshire Council and Northamptonshire County Council, supporting any Milton Keynes families who may work in schools or have children in schools in either authority
- means that the Easter bank holiday is placed in the middle of the spring half term

Who decides term dates?

It is a political decision made by the Cabinet member for Children and Families. We are seeking your feedback on these proposed dates beforehand to ensure that they are suitable. A summary of the responses from this consultation will be included as part of the decision-making process.

Your views

To give us your comments and preferred option on Term Dates 2020/21 please either:

- complete our online form on www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations
- email: sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk

A calendar of proposed options is attached.