

JHY/SHY

4th November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Consultation: Proposal for a Two-Week October Half Term Break

We are writing to invite your views on a proposed change to our school term calendar: specifically, extending the October half term break from one week to two weeks. This change would take effect from the academic year 2026-27, subject to approval by our governors.

Why We Are Considering This Change

We believe a two-week October half term may offer several benefits outlined below:

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| Improved well-being and rest | A mid-autumn break can help both students and staff manage fatigue and stress in the long autumn term. |
| Reduced absenteeism and illness | Spreading breaks more evenly may reduce peaks of illness and absence holiday requests common in the autumn term. |
| Learning recovery from summer dip | Frequent breaks may mitigate "summer learning loss" and enable more consistent progress. |
| More affordable holiday option | Families may be able to take a holiday during off-peak times at lower cost compared to summer. |
| Alignment with neighbouring schools / policy shifts | Some local schools and authorities are already consulting and implementing an extension to the October half term. |
| Redistribution of holiday time | The extra days may be taken from the summer break, helping to shorten an overly long summer holiday and smooth the school year. |
| Improved recruitment and retention of staff | A longer autumn break can enhance staff wellbeing and work-life balance, making the school more attractive to recruit and retain high-quality staff. |

However, we also recognise there are potential drawbacks. Before any decision is made, we want to ensure that all stakeholders have an opportunity to contribute feedback.

We will keep the total number of pupil teaching days in the year constant (i.e. no net loss to learning time). Any additional break days will be made up elsewhere in the calendar either by adjusting other breaks in the published calendar or realigning INSET days.

How We Propose to Implement It

- The current one-week October half term would become two consecutive weeks.
- The extra 5 days would be taken from other holiday periods (e.g. summer holiday) **or** through reallocation of training / inset days, so that there is no reduction in pupil teaching days.
- If accepted, we would publish a revised draft calendar in time for all parents /carer and stakeholders to have in advance.

How You Can Give Feedback

- Please complete the online survey at [Online Form](#) by the 14th of November

All feedback will be considered by the leadership team and governors. A final decision will be made by the end of November 2025, and any revised calendar will be published in due course.

We value your input and hope to arrive at a decision that best supports our students, families, and staff.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Halsey', with a long horizontal line extending to the right above the letters.

Miss J Halsey
Headteacher