

Information

for County Councillors

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2013-17/203

From:	Wendy Kerslake Schools Commissioning Team
Date:	18 January 2016
To:	All County Councillors

Proposed Somerset School Terms & Holidays 2017-18

Each year, the Local Authority (LA) consults on the draft school term and holiday dates for the next but one academic year. These will apply to Community and Voluntary Controlled schools. Academies, and Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools, are able to set their own Term Dates and Holidays, although most align their dates with those set by Somerset County Council.

The draft dates for the academic year 2017-18 are available on the Somerset County Council's consultation hub to enable interested parties to respond to the proposed dates.

The consultation page can be accessed using the following link:

<http://www.somersetconsults.org.uk>

The consultation will close at 23.59pm on Friday 04 March 2016.

Background details on the draft dates:

As in previous years, a total of 195 school days have been identified and schools will be able to choose 5 INSET days which best suit them.

- (2) As far as possible, the terms will be of similar length and will start on a Monday and finish on a Friday. Having already indicated in the 2016-17 calendar the anticipated start date for the 2017-18 academic year would

be 4 September 2016, it was felt that this should be retained.

- (3) A two week Christmas break has been scheduled as this is often preferable to a longer October break despite the lengths of Terms 1 and 2 each with 35 days.
- (4) The February half term break is suggested as the week beginning 12 February 2018. The Easter holiday weekend is relatively early in this year (Good Friday on 30 March and Easter Monday on Monday 02 April). The Bank Holiday weekend falls in the middle of the Easter Holidays.
- (5) Wherever possible, Somerset looks to align its Term Dates & Holidays with those of its neighbouring Authorities. There are strong cross-border admissions arrangements with neighbouring authorities.
- (6) Assuming that the 2017-18 academic year will begin on 04 September 2017, Somerset's proposed summer holiday 2017 will be 5 weeks and 4 days long (excluding possible INSET days).

For more information please contact:	Name: Wendy Kerslake Email: WJKerslake@somerset.gov.uk Tel No.: 01823 356683
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