



## School holiday dates agreed

Island schools will revert back to a two-week Christmas holiday and a shorter autumn break from next year. The Isle of Wight Council's Cabinet last night (Thursday) set the school holiday timetable for the 2022-23 academic year, agreeing to a shorter one-week October half-term and an extended two-week Christmas break.

Councillor Debbie Andre said the decision supported the majority view expressed by schools and headteachers during a consultation.

She said: "Analysis of the responses showed that the majority preferred a two-week Christmas break. "Twenty-three of the 31 responses supported having a two-week, three-weekend Christmas break (whenever possible). Of the 23, 14 wanted to return to the pattern used in most local authorities, with a one-week October half term break."

The council only sets the term dates for voluntary controlled and community schools, of which there are 24. Voluntary aided, foundation and academy schools have the freedom to set their own term dates but are still included in council consultations and do respond.

Many will agree a school year that is the same as that decided by the council.

At the same meeting, the Cabinet agreed a change to the 2021-22 term calendar to respect the additional bank holiday on Friday 3 June 2022, which will celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

As the date falls within May half-term (30 May-3 June), pupils and staff will have an extra day off on 22 December 2021, extending the Christmas holiday.

All the agreed term dates are available on the council's website:

<https://iow.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=145&MId=528&Ver=4>