

From Reading Borough Council:

Dear Parent,

Many of you will be aware there is an anomaly between schools in the Easter holiday dates in 2018. There is a similar issue with the October 2018 and Easter holidays 2019 in the following academic year. Reading local authority wish to consult you on making the changes below.

Proposal 1:

The Reading Borough Council published dates for maintained schools do not align with those of our neighbouring local authorities or some of our Academy and Free Schools. For Reading maintained schools term ends on 23rd March 2018 and the new term starts on 9th April 2018; for our neighbours and non-maintained schools term end on 29th March and term starts on 16th April. This clearly has implications for the attendance of children and school staff and childcare practicalities and potentially cost.

The schools that have published term dates in line with Reading dates are:

- All maintained primary and nursery schools
- Blessed Hugh Faringdon (term ends 22.03.18)
- Reading Girls' School
- UTC Reading
- The Wren (terms end 26.03.18)

As a result of concerns from head teachers, parents and local councillors, the local authority wishes to consult with school staff, governors and parents, on changing the dates.

We propose that all schools consider adopting term 4 end on 29th March and start term 5 on 16th April. This new term pattern gives a total of 194 days so an extra day will need to be found. The most obvious options are 20th December 2017 or 25th July 2018 both of which extend the Christmas and July end of terms by one day. The 26th July could be an INSET day and thus would not affect families.

Proposal 2:

There is similarly a problem with the term dates for 2018-2019; the October 2018 holiday and the Easter 2019 holiday are both set for one week later than our neighbours. We propose that Reading schools adopts the October holiday (22nd - 26th October 2018) and Easter (8th - 23rd April 2019) in line with other local authorities and that the term dates are re-published.

If you have any objections to these proposals, you should let (headteacher) know by Monday, 12th June 2017