



18 March 2024

Email: office@warrenfarmgo.co.uk Web: www.warrenfarm-primary.co.uk
Headteacher: Mr Simon Taylor

Term Dates 2024-2025

Dear Parent / Carer

We are giving advance notice to parents and carers of our term dates for the academic year 2024 - 2025. As a school, the decision has been made to extend our October half term break to 2 weeks. This follows meetings with Parents, Governors, Educational trusts, analysis of attendance data and research gathered at a national level. This will be reviewed and evaluated for Academic Year 2025 -2026.

To facilitate the extended half term holiday in October, we will only hold one training day on our return to school in September 2024, with the remaining 5 non contact training days that all schools are entitled to take each year being taken during the additional half term week in October. This will ensure that there are no teacher training days spread throughout the year where sporadic child care will be needed for your children. School are exploring options for the provision of a half term holiday camp during this week.

The rationale behind this decision is based on improving pupil attendance along with the wellbeing of children and staff. As you may have seen in the national press last month, the Educational charity The Nuffield Foundation is set to publish a study on overcoming post-pandemic learning disparities, which will recommend changing the current "Victorian" state school calendar. The report notes that several school trusts and local authorities in England have already introduced a two-week autumn half-term break, or have incorporated staff training days into one week instead of being spread across the year. The Guardian newspaper reported that one trust stated that pupil absences for illness fell 25% and staff absences fell by 50% after it extended the autumn half-term holiday by a week at 31 of its primary and secondary schools.

During Warren Farm's most recent Ofsted Inspection attendance was highlighted as one of 3 development points *"Some pupils have low attendance and are persistently absent. This leads to gaps in their learning and lower achievement. The school should continue to work with parents to instil the importance of regular attendance to improve the life chances of those persistent absentees"* (Ofsted September 2023)

This academic year we have received almost 30 official Leave in term time (LiTT) requests which have resulted in a number of penalty notices for our families. Historically, data analysis demonstrates that the Autumn term is when the majority of these request are received.

While I understand these changes may initially come as a surprise, giving adequate notice will help ensure that this is a smooth transition for families and the school.

Over the last 18 months, support from parents and carers for the changes at Warren Farm has seen the school go from strength to strength. In our most recent parent survey, all but 2 parents would recommend the school. The school has seen an increase of 34.6% (over a third) for applications for the academic year for Reception places in 2024 - 2025 alongside waiting lists in Year 1 through to Year 6. This is testament to the growing reputation of the school as a provider of **'Excellence in Everything'** for our children.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Taylor
Head teacher





Autumn 2024

Monday 2nd September – INSET Day
Tuesday 3rd September – School opens to Year 1 – Year 6
Thursday 5th September – School opens to Reception pupils (new to Warren Farm)
Friday 6th September – School opens to Reception pupils (previously attended Warren Farm nursery)
Monday 9th September – School opens to Nursery pupils
Half-term: Monday 21st October – Friday 1st November
Monday 4th November – School opens to children
Friday 20th December at 1:00pm – School closes
Christmas Holiday – Monday 23rd December 2024 – Friday 3rd January 2025

Spring 2025

Monday 6th January – School opens to children
Half-term: Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February
Monday 24th February - School opens to children
Friday 11th April at 1:00pm – School closes
Easter Holiday – Monday 14th April – Friday 25th April

Summer 2025

Monday 28th April – School opens to children
Bank Holiday – Monday 5th May
Half-term: Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May
Monday 2nd June – School opens to children
Friday 18th July at 1:00pm – School closes

