

PROPOSED FUTURE SCHOOLS FORUM DATES

To: Cambridgeshire Schools Forum

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The January Forum meeting received and agreed proposals for future Schools Forum meetings beyond July 2020. Queries were raised on two of the proposals, especially as the school dates shown in the report only showed the maintained schools half term and end of term dates. The first was regarding why two dates had been proposed for the January 2021 date (Wednesday 13th January or Friday 15th January 2021) as they were not in a week before half term which was the reasoning for providing a Wednesday date as an alternative to the preferred Forum day of Friday, when the Friday would be the last day of term. Forum agreed the Friday 15th January 2021 date unless any reasons transpired later on why it should not be chosen. There was a query on the suggested Friday 26th March date as this did fall on the last day of term and therefore needed to be revisited.

1.2 The dates agreed at the last Forum meeting beyond July were as follows:

Friday 6th November 2020
Wednesday 16th December 2020
Friday 15th January 2021
Friday 26th February 2021
Friday 21st May 2021
Friday 16th July 2021.

2. General Guidance for setting Schools Forum dates and dates of schools terms

2.1 The general guidance for setting up Schools Forum meetings in the past was that they should avoid school holiday periods and if possible and highlighted in advance, Teacher Training days. The latter tends now to be more difficult as some schools pick their own teacher training days and so this is no longer a practicable requirement. Friday has always been the preferred day for Forum meetings. A more recent requirement has been that where the last day of term is a Friday, that if at all possible, (and while also taking into account of the relevant Children and Young People (CYP) Committee dates around the budget consultation / setting cycles) to have any required Schools Forum meeting the week before the last week of the term or to move it back from the Friday to the Wednesday in the last week of term. In addition, it is important that the December and January meetings co-ordinate with CYP Committee (who receive update reports on the funding formula in December and need to approve it at their January Committee meeting) and also to take account, if known, the Authority Proforma Tool (APT) deadlines date.

2.2 The maintained schools term dates and holidays for the school years 2020 and 2021 are as follows:

Autumn Term Thursday 3rd September to Friday 23rd October 2020

Autumn Half term Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October 2020

Autumn Term continues Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October

Christmas Holiday Monday 21st December 2020 Friday 1st January 2021

Spring Term begins Monday 4th January to 12th February 2021

Spring Half Term Monday 15th February 2021 Friday 19th February 2021

Spring term continues Monday 22nd February 2021 to Friday 26th March 2021

Easter Holiday Monday 29th March 2021 Friday 9th April 2021

Summer term begins Monday 12th April 2021 to Friday

Summer Half Term Monday 31st May 2021 to Friday 4th June 2021

Summer Term continues Monday 7th June to Thursday 22nd July

Summer Holiday Friday starts 23rd July 2021.

3. PROPOSED REVISED DATES

- 3.1 The original appendix to the January report stated that as the CYP Committee was on the 19th January 2021 officers were suggesting that it could be useful for Forum to meet a few days before the Committee to pass on any views. Two dates were offered: Wednesday 13th January or Friday 15th January. In many ways the Friday is the better date as it potentially gives a little more time for officers to provide more information if there is, as has been the case in the past few years, very late Grant settlement announcements. Therefore the agreed Friday 15th January date should stand.
- 3.2 Wednesday 24th March “2021 is now suggested as the March 2021 date to replace Friday 26th March 2021.

4 RECOMMENDATION

a) To agree the following:

- 1) To confirm Friday 15th January 2021 as the date for the January 2021 Forum.**
- 2) To agree Wednesday 24th March 2021 as the date for the March 2021 Forum date for Forum.**

b) to send out invitations for all agreed dates from the January Forum and today’s Forum in the next two weeks

Background Documents:

School dates from Cambridgeshire County Council Website which can be found at the following link:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/school-term-dates-closures/school-term-dates-2020-2021>