



Tuesday 24th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Consultation on a Proposed Change to the Autumn Half-Term Break (From the Academic Year 2026/27)

At Perry Hall Multi-Academy Trust (PHMAT), we are always looking for ways to better support the wellbeing and success of our children, staff, and families. As part of our ongoing review of the school calendar, we are seeking your views on a proposed change to the October half-term break, starting from the academic year 2026/27.

We are proposing to extend the October half-term break from one week to two weeks.

Why We Are Proposing This Change

This proposal comes in response to two significant challenges faced by many schools across the country:

- High levels of staff and pupil absence during the long Autumn Term, particularly in November.
- Challenges in recruiting and retaining staff, particularly in teaching and classroom support roles.

We believe that a longer break in the Autumn Term would:

- Support staff and pupil wellbeing by providing time to rest and recover during the busiest time of year.
- Help reduce sickness-related absences in the second half of the Autumn Term.
- Make roles within our schools more attractive to high-quality candidates.
- Provide families with greater flexibility to take a break together during a less expensive period.

We know that some local secondary schools have already implemented this change which would bring the half term in line for families.

We are also aware that some families request holidays during term time due to the high cost of travel during school holiday periods. While we will continue to uphold our policy of not authorising holidays during term time, this additional week may help families plan holidays outside of term dates without disrupting children's learning.



What This Means for the School Year

To maintain the same number of learning days, we would make small adjustments to the school calendar in other parts of the year. These may include starting the academic year slightly earlier or finishing slightly later.

Full details will be confirmed following the consultation, and each school will communicate specific arrangements in due course.

We Would Value Your Feedback

We are currently consulting with both staff and families and would be very grateful for your views.

Please take a few moments to complete our short online consultation form by **9am on Monday 16th March 2026**.

Feedback form: [Proposal to Change the School Year 2026/27 – Fill in form](#)

The results of this consultation will be reviewed by the Board of Trustees, and we aim to confirm the final decision as soon as possible afterwards.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. We are proud to work in partnership with you to ensure the best outcomes for every child.

Best wishes,

Perry Hall Multi-Academy Trust