



Organisation of school time in Europe

Primary and general secondary education

2006/07 school year



**TABLE III – SCHOOL HOLIDAYS DURING THE 2006/07 SCHOOL YEAR
(PRIMARY AND GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2006	CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR 2006/2007	WINTER / CARNIVAL 2007	SPRING / EASTER 2007	3 rd TERM 2007	SUMMER 2007	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS 2006/2007
BELGIUM FRENCH COMMUNITY	1 week (30 October- 03 November)	2 weeks (25 December- 05 January)	1 week (19-23 February)	2 weeks (02-13 April)	-	9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	4 public holidays (27/09; 01/05; 17/05; 28/05)
FLEMISH COMMUNITY	1 week (30 October- 03 November)	2 weeks (25 December- 05 January)	1 week (19-23 February)	2 weeks (02-13 April)	-	9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	4 public holidays (01/05; 17/05; 18/05; 28/5)
GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY	1 week (30 October- 03 November)	2 weeks (25 December- 05 January)	1 week (19-23 February)	2 weeks (02-13 April)	-	9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	4 public holidays (15/11; 01/05; 17/05; 28/05 + 1 extra day)
CZECH REPUBLIC¹	2 days (26 and 27 October)	About 1 week (23 December- 02 January)	1 day (02 February)	1 week (between 05 February and 18 March depending on the region); 2 days (05-06 April)	-	9 weeks (02 July- 31 August)	5 days (28/09; 17/11; 09/04; 01/05; 08/05)
DENMARK²	1 week (16-22 October)	1 ½ weeks (21 December- 02 January primary; 23 December- 02 January general secondary)	1 week (either 12-18 February or 19-25 February)	1 week (02-08 April)	-	7 weeks (30 June -13 August)	4 public holidays (04/05; 17/05; 28/05; 05/06)
GERMANY³	2 to 14 days (staggered between 02 October and 04 November)	9 to 18 days (staggered between 21 December and 12 January)	0 to 12 days (staggered between 01 and 24 February)	5 to 15 days (staggered between 05 March and 16 April)	0 to 11 days (staggered between 14 May and 09 June)	6 weeks (staggered between 21 June and 10 September)	Up to 10 days, depending on the <i>Land</i>
ESTONIA	1 week (28 October- 05 November)	2 weeks (23 December- 07 January)	-	1 week (17-25 March)	-	13 weeks (05 June-31 August)	3 days (24/02 Independence day; 06/04; 01/05)
GREECE	-	2 weeks (24 December- 07 January)	-	2 weeks (30 March-16 April)	-	Prim.: 10 weeks (22 June-31 August) Sec.: 9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	6 national/religious holidays (28/10; 17/11; 30/01; 19/02; 01/05; 28/05 and some holidays of regional character)

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SPAIN ⁴	-	2 weeks (between 22 December and 08 January)	Usually 2 or 3 days (between 16 and 20 February depending on the Autonomous Community)	About 1 week (staggered between 30 March and 16 April depending on the Autonomous Community)	-	Prim.: 11 weeks (staggered between late June and mid- September) Sec.: 12 weeks (staggered between late June and mid- September)	Around 8 public holidays, depending on the Autonomous Community
FRANCE ⁵	1½ weeks (25 October- 06 November)	2 weeks (23 December- 08 January)	2 weeks: 10/02-26/02 (zone A) 24/02-12/03(zone B) 17/02-05/03(zone C)	2 weeks: 31/03-16/04 (zone A) 14/04-02/05 (zone B) 07/04-23/04 (zone C)	-	9 weeks (04 July- 03 September)	5 days (11/11; 01/05; 08/05; 17/05; 28/05)
IRELAND ⁶	1 week (30 October- 03 November primary and secondary)	2 weeks 23 December- 07 January primary and secondary)	2 days (22-23 February primary*) 1 week (19-23 February secondary)	2 weeks (30 March-15 April primary and secondary)	-	Prim.: about 9 weeks (late June to end of August) Sec.: about 13 weeks (June, July and most of August)	Around 3 public holidays (01/05; 17/05; 28/05) + some religious holidays
ITALY ⁷	-	2 weeks (between 22/24 December and 05/07 January)	1 to 4 days (generally in February, depending on the regions)	5 to 10 days (between 04/05 April and 09/14 April depending on the regions)	-	12-13 weeks (between June and September)	5 national holidays (01/11, 08/12, 25/04; 01/05; 02/06 and Saints' days depending on the regions)
CYPRUS	-	2 weeks (primary: 23 December- 06 January) (secondary: 24 December- 06 January)	-	2 weeks (31 March-15 April)	-	Around 10 weeks (primary: 23 June- 02 September) (secondary: 01 July- 31 August)	7 days (13/11; 30/01;19/02; 01/05; 17/05 only primary education; 28/05; 11/06;) (13/11 might be changed to another date)
LATVIA ⁸	1 week (23-27 October)	2 weeks (23 December- 05 January)	-	1 week (30 March-05 April)	-	13 weeks (01 June-31 August)	3 public holidays (01/05; 04/05; 18/11)
LITHUANIA ⁹	1 week (31 October 06 November)	2 weeks (24 December- 06 January)	-	1 week (10-17 April)	-	Not shorter than 2 months (July/August)	3 days (16/02; 11/03; 01/05)
LUXEMBOURG	1 week (28 October- 05 November)	2 weeks (23 December- 07 January)	1 week (17-25 February)	2 weeks (31 March-15 April)	1 week (26 Mai-03 June)	9 weeks (16 July- 14 September)	2 public holidays (01/05; 17/05)
HUNGARY ¹⁰	1 week (30 October- 03 November)	1 ½ weeks (25 December- 02 January)	-	1 week (05-10 April)	-	11 weeks (15 June-31 August)	5 days (23/10; 01/11; 15/03, 01/05; 28/05)

COUNTRY	AUTUMN 2006	CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR 2006/2007	WINTER / CARNIVAL 2007	SPRING / EASTER 2007	3 rd TERM 2007	SUMMER 2007	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS / OCCASIONAL/RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS 2006/2007
MALTA	3 days (01-3 November)	2 weeks (26 December- 05 January)	2 days (19-20 February)	1 week (04-11 April)	-	About 11 weeks (28 June- 14 September)	8 days 21/09; 08/12; 13/12; 25/12; 19/03; 01/05; 07/06; 29/06)
NETHERLANDS¹¹	1 week (staggered over 2 regions: South: 14-22 October; North/Central: 21-29 October)	2 weeks (23 December- 07 January)	1 week (staggered over 2 regions: Central/ South: 17-25 February; North: 24 February- 04 March)	-	1 week (28 April-06 May)	Prim: 6 weeks (staggered over 3 regions between 30 June and 02 September) Sec: 7 weeks (staggered over 3 regions between 30 June and 02 September)	3 public holidays (09/04; 17/05; 28/05) 2 national holidays (30/04 and 05/05)
AUSTRIA¹²	-	2 weeks (24 December- 06 January)	1 week (05-10 February: N, W; 12-17 February: B, K, S, T, V; 19-24 February: O, ST)	1 week (31 March-10 April)	4 days (26-29 May)	About 9 weeks (B, N, W: 30 June- 01 September; K, O, S, St, T, V: 07 July-08 September)	7 days (26/10; 01/11; 02/11; 08/12; 01/05; 17/05; 07/06) 1 extra religious holiday (Saint - different in each <i>Land</i>)
POLAND¹³	-	1 week (23 December- 01 January)	2 weeks (between 15 January and 25 February depending on the region)	4 days (05-10 April)	-	10 weeks (23 June-31 August)	7 days (01/11; 11/11; 01/05; 02/05; 03/05; 07/06; 08/06)
PORTUGAL	-	2 weeks (18 December- 02 January)	3 days (19-21 February)	2 weeks (26 March-09 April)	-	About 10 to 12 weeks (beginning 11 or 25 June)	7 days (05/10; 01/11; 01/12; 08/12; 25/04; 01/05; 07/06)
SLOVENIA¹⁴	1 week (30 October- 03 November)	1 week (25 December- 02 January)	1 week (between 19 and 23 February; 26 February and 02 March, depending on the regions)	1 week (27 April-02 May)	-	10 weeks (25 June-31 August)	2 days (08/02; 09/04)
SLOVAKIA¹⁵	2 days (02-03 November)	7 days (23 December- 02 January)	1 day (02 February)	1 week (spring holidays) (between 19 February and 09 March, depending on the regions); 4 days (Easter holidays) (05-10 April)	-	9 weeks (01 July-31 August)	5 days (01/09; 15/09; 01/11; 01/05; 08/05)
FINLAND¹⁶	1 to 7 days (between 13 and 30 October)	1 to 2 weeks (between 18 December and 07 January)	1 week (between 19 February and 11 March)	3-4 days (between 06 and 09 April)	-	10-11 weeks (from 02 June to mid-August)	3 days (06/12; 01/05; 17/05)

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SWEDEN ¹⁷	1 week (between 10 October and 10 November)	About 3 weeks (between 15/21 December and 08/10 January)	1 week (between 12 February and 01 March)	1 week (between 19 March and 20 April)	-	About 10 weeks (between 08/16 June and end of August)	3 days (01/05; 17/05; 06/06)
UNITED KINGDOM ENGLAND AND WALES ¹⁸	1 week (23-27 October)	2 weeks (between the third or fourth week of December and the first week of January)	1 week (12-16 February or 19-23 February)	2 weeks (02-13 April)	1 week (28 May-01 June)	6 weeks (between 23 July and the first week of September)	1 public holiday (01/05)*
NORTHERN IRELAND ¹⁹	2 days (30-31 October)	2 weeks (25 December- 05 January)	1 days (16 February)	1 week (06-13 April)	2 days (07 and 28 May)	9 weeks (between 01 July and the first week of September)	Up to 5 optional closure days
SCOTLAND ²⁰	From 1 to 2 weeks (between 02 and 27 October)	2 weeks (22 December- 04 January)	1 to 7 days (between 08 and 20 February)	Around 2 weeks (between 31 March and 13 April)	-	7 weeks (from end June to mid-August)	Up to 3 days
ICELAND ²¹	0-2 days (Primary/lower and upper secondary)	2 weeks (approx. 21 December- 03 January)	0-5 days primary and lower secondary; 0-2 days upper secondary (usually in the third week of February)	Approx.: 7 days (primary/lower and upper secondary: between 02 and 10/11 April)	-	11 weeks primary and lower secondary (between 04 June and 31 August); 13 weeks upper secondary (between 21 May and 31 August)	4 public holidays (19/04; 01/05; 17/05; 28/05)
LIECHTENSTEIN	2 weeks (07-22 October)	2 weeks (23 December- 07 January)	1 week (17-25 February)	2 ½ weeks (05-22 April)	-	6 weeks (06 July-20 August)	0
NORWAY ²²	1 week (between 02 and 14 October)	Approx. 2 weeks (between 19/21 December and 02/04 January)	1 week (between 19 February and 10 March)	Approx. 1 week (02-11 April)	-	Approx. 8 weeks (from 19 /22 June)	3 occasional holidays (1/05; 17/05; 28/05)

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BULGARIA²³	2/3 days (09-12 November for pupils I grade of primary education)	2 weeks (23 December- 07 January)	2/3 days (08-11 February – between the school terms)	1 week (01-09 April)	-	Between 11 and 16 weeks (Grades I, XII and XIII: 23/05-15/09; Grades II to IV: 31/05- 15/09; Grades V to VIII : 15/06- 15/09; Grades IX to XI and VIII : 30/06-15/09)	2 days (01/11; 25/05)
ROMANIA	1 week (30 October- 05 November; only primary education)	2 weeks (23 December- 07 January)	1 week (03-11 February)	1 week (07-15 April)	-	11 weeks (16 June-31 August)	1 day (1 December)
TURKEY²⁴	3 days (22-25 October: religious holidays)	4 ½ days (30 December- 03 January: religious holidays)	2 weeks (29 January- 09 February)	2 days (23-24 April)	-	12 weeks (19 June- 18 September)	-

ENDNOTES

**TABLE III –SCHOOL HOLIDAYS DURING THE 2006/07 SCHOOL YEAR
(PRIMARY AND GENERAL SECONDARY EDUCATION)**

¹ CZECH REPUBLIC

Specification of terms for spring holidays in the CZECH REPUBLIC

Term 2007	Regions
5-11 February	Benešov, Beroun, Rokycany, České Budějovice, Český Krumlov, Klatovy, Trutnov, Pardubice, Chrudim, Svitavy, Ústí nad Orlicí, Ostrava-město
12-18 February	Praha 1 to 5, Blansko, Brno-město, Brno-venkov, Břeclav, Hodonín, Vyškov, Znojmo, Domažlice, Tachov, Louny, Prostějov, Karviná
19-25 February	Praha 6 to 10, Cheb, Karlovy Vary, Sokolov, Nymburk, Jindřichův Hradec, Litoměřice, Děčín, Přerov, Frýdek-Místek
26 February-04 March	Kroměříž, Uherské Hradiště, Vsetín, Zlín, Praha-východ, Praha-západ, Mělník, Rakovník, Plzeň-město, Plzeň-sever, Plzeň-jih, Hradec Králové, Teplice, Nový Jičín
05-11 March	Česká Lípa, Jablonec nad Nisou, Liberec, Semily, Havlíčkův Brod, Jihlava, Pelhřimov, Třebíč, Žďár nad Sázavou, Kladno, Kolín, Kutná Hora, Písek, Náchod, Bruntál
12-18 March	Mladá Boleslav, Příbram, Tábor, Prachatice, Strakonice, Ústí nad Labem, Chomutov, Most, Jičín, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Olomouc, Šumperk, Opava, Jeseník

² **DENMARK:** Following the legislation, municipalities are at liberty to decide when to place holidays, although it is expected that many of them will follow the previous schedule. The winter/carnival holidays therefore also depend on the local municipality which decides whether the holiday is in week 7 or 8 (12 or 19 February). The mentioned holiday schedule for primary and general school is for Herning Municipality.

³ **GERMANY:** The length of the shorter holiday periods in each year is fixed by the individual *Land*, within the total number of 75 days of the holidays in the school year.

➔ For **Summer holidays**, please see **Table I**.

Shorter School holiday periods (public/occasional/religious holidays)

Land	Autumn 2006	Christmas / New Year 2006/2007	Winter 2007	Spring / Easter 2007	3 rd term 2007
Baden-Württemberg	30 Oct.-03 Nov.	25 Dec.-05 Jan.	-	02 April-14 April	29 May-09 June
Bayern	30 Oct.-04 Nov.	25 Dec.-05 Jan.	19 Febr.-24 Febr.	02 April-14 April	29 May-09 June
Berlin	02 Oct.-14 Oct.	25 Dec.-05 Jan.	05 Febr.-10 Febr.	02 April-13/30 April	18 May
Brandenburg	02 Oct.- 14 Oct./30 Oct.	25 Dec.-05 Jan.	05 Febr.-10 Febr.	04 April-13 April	-
Bremen	02 Oct./16 Oct.- 28 Oct.	23 Dec.-06 Jan.	01 Febr.+ 02 Febr.	26 March-10 April	29 May
Hamburg	02 Oct./16 Oct.- 28 Oct.	25 Dec.-06 Jan.	02 February	05 March-17 March/ 30 April	14 May-18 May
Hessen	16 Oct.-28 Oct.	23 Dec.-12 Jan.	-	02 April-14 April	-
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	23 Oct.-28 Oct.	25 Dec.-05 Jan.	05 Febr.-17 Febr.	02 April-11 April	25 May-29 May
Niedersachsen	02 Oct./16 Oct.- 28 Oct.	23 Dec.-06 Jan.	01 Febr. + 02 Febr.	26 March- 10 April/30 April	18 May + 29 May
Nordrhein-Westfalen	02 Oct.-14 Oct.	21 Dec.-05 Jan.	-	02 April-14 April	29 May
Rheinland-Pfalz	09 Oct.-20 Oct.	22 Dec.-05 Jan.	-	28 March-13 April	-
Saarland	18 Oct.-31 Oct.	21 Dec.-06 Jan.	15 Febr.-21 Febr.	02 April-14 April	-
Sachsen	16 Oct.-27 Oct.	22 Dec.-02 Jan.	12 Febr.-23 Febr.	05 April-13 April	18 May/26 May- 29 May
Sachsen-Anhalt	23 Oct.-30 Oct.	22 Dec.-05 Jan.	01 Febr.-10 Febr.	31 March-05 April	18 May-25 May
Schleswig-Holstein	02 Oct./16 Oct.- 30 Oct.	25 Dec.-08 Jan.	-	02 April-16 April/ 30 April	-
Thüringen	23 Oct.-03 Nov.	23 Dec.-05 Jan.	05 Febr.-10 Febr.	02 April-13 April	26 May-29 May

⁴ **SPAIN:** Summer holidays start the day after the lessons are over and finish the day before the beginning of lessons for 2006/07 and they vary depending on the Autonomous Community.

⁵ **FRANCE: Zone A:** Caen, Clermont-Ferrand, Grenoble, Lyon, Montpellier, Nancy-Metz, Nantes, Rennes, Toulouse;
Zone B: Aix-Marseille, Amiens, Besançon, Dijon, Lille, Limoges, Nice, Orléans-Tours, Poitiers, Reims, Rouen, Strasbourg;
Zone C: Bordeaux, Créteil, Paris, Versailles.

⁶ **IRELAND:** The above holidays are standardised in accordance with circular M21/04. The school year at post-primary level is very tight and doesn't allow for any additional holidays as schools must comply with the minimum number of 167 days. In fact, in recent years, since the standardised school calendar, many schools who would have traditionally opened on 1 September are now opening in late August in order to meet their full complement of days. There is more flexibility at primary school level as they are not restricted by end of year state exams.

*Primary schools may use 3 discretionary days to extend break to full week.

⁷ **ITALY:** According to school autonomy, schools have 2 to 8 days available which are foreseen for the suspension of educational activities.

⁸ **LATVIA:** Summer holidays 2007: 01 June-31 August – official summer holiday period for classes 1-8 and 10-11. For the 1st class, education institution decides on additional holidays of 1 week in the second semester.

⁹ **LITHUANIA:** Subject to the school council's approval, additional school holidays may be allocated to pupils of grades 1 to 5, provided the mandatory number of 170 school days is respected.

¹⁰ **Hungary:** Taking into consideration § 52. of the Act on public education (which states that the first day of the school year is the 1st of September and the last day of the school year is the 15th of June) the school with leaving the first and last school day of the academic year unchanged may give further holidays to the pupils or may change the beginning and end date of the preset school holidays over the school year. School holidays at schools teaching using any of the languages of national or ethnic minorities of Hungary as the language of instruction may differ from the above described school holidays. (Source: Decree No. 4/2006 [II.24.] of the Minister of Education on the school year of 2006/2007).

¹¹ **NETHERLANDS:** Dates for the **summer holidays** are decided by the Ministry; the holiday period is staggered over 3 regions (compulsory dates for all schools); all other holidays are recommended by the Ministry.

School year 2006/2007

	Primary education (2007)	General secondary education (2007)
North region	07 July-19 August	07 July-26 August
Central region	21 July-02 September	14 July-02 September
South region	30 June-12 August	30 June-19 August

The **administrative** school year runs from **01 August 2006 to 31 July 2007**, the summer holidays 2007 being considered as the summer holidays for the school year 2006/2007.

¹² **AUSTRIA:** B•Burgenland, N•Niederösterreich; W•Wien; K•Kärnten; O•Oberösterreich; S•Salzburg; St•Steiermark; T•Tirol; V•Vorarlberg.

¹³ **POLAND:** Winter Holidays - 2007:

29 January-11 February	Dolnoslaskie, Łódzkie, Mazowieckie, Opolskie, Zachodniopomorskie
22 January-04 February	Podlaskie
12-25 February	Lubelskie, Podkarpackie, Pomorskie, Śląskie, Warmińsko-Mazurskie
15-28 January	Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Lubuskie, Małopolskie, Świętokrzyskie, Wielkopolskie

¹⁴ **SLOVENIA:** Winter/Carnival: Ljubljana, Maribor and Ptuj regions: 26 February-02 March; other regions: 19-23 February.

¹⁵ **SLOVAKIA:** Spring holidays vary according to regions as follows:

05-09 March	Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava
19-23 February	Prešov, Košice
26 February-02 March	Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín

¹⁶ In **FINLAND**, Independence day, Epiphany and 1 May are deducted from the total number of school days if they are on any weekday other than Saturday. In the 2006/07 school year, two of these days are on weekdays other

than Saturday, so there will be 188 school days in all. School holidays may differ within one municipality so that pupils in different schools may have their school holidays at different times.

¹⁷ **SWEDEN:** Starting and finishing dates vary on regional and municipality levels.

¹⁸ In **ENGLAND and WALES**, schools must be open for at least 380 half day sessions each school year. The dates of school terms are not fixed nationally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the local authority (LA) or school governing body. Although school holidays generally cover the same core periods, exact dates may vary between schools and authorities. There is currently some movement towards the adoption of a standard school year, which would be consistent year on year. A number of LAs began to introduce this new model in 2004/05 and other LAs are working towards introduction of a standard school year in subsequent years. However, the decision to adopt this new model remains at the level of the LA or school governing body. The pattern of terms and holidays for the standard school year is two approximately seven-week terms before Christmas with a two week break between them, followed by four approximately six-week terms with a break around the first two weeks of April, irrespective of the timing of Easter.

*School holidays in England and Wales are planned to take into account and cover other national public holidays.

¹⁹ In **NORTHERN IRELAND**, schools must be open for 190 days a year. The dates of school terms are not fixed nationally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the Education and Library Board (ELB) or school governing body. Therefore school holidays may differ between ELBs and schools. The five ELBs, encouraged by the Department of Education, have set up a harmonisation scheme, which sets the core holiday dates on which no services (school transport and school meals) are provided. Schools do not have to set holidays within these dates, but they are strongly advised to do so. In addition, for the 2006/07 school year, schools may allocate up to five 'School Development Days' from within the 190 days. These five days are devoted to staff development and school improvement; the school is closed to pupils.

²⁰ **UK-SCOTLAND:** School holidays are not fixed nationally, but by local education authorities, and may vary from one authority to another.

²¹ **ICELAND:** Autumn, Christmas, Winter and Spring holidays may vary on compulsory level according to a change in the compulsory school act from 2001.

Pupils' holidays over the school year are never shorter than 15 weeks.

²² **NORWAY:** In some regions the school can decide individually the school holidays.

²³ **BULGARY:** For Grade VIII: see endnote in Table I.

²⁴ **TURKEY:** A school year is divided into two parts: at the end of a semester, there is a two-weeks' holiday called mid-school year holiday. The summer holidays are between June and September. Decisions on ending/starting semester dates are made by the Ministry.
