

Orkney Islands School Holidays 2026/27

Term dates, holidays, in-service days and pupil return dates for every Orkney Islands council school.

2026/27 dates are Orkney Islands's own published calendar.

Term starts	18 August 2026
Term ends	2 July 2027
Summer holiday	3 July 2027 – 16 August 2027 (45 days)
In-service days	4

2026/27 holidays and in-service days

PERIOD	STARTS	ENDS	DAYS	TYPE
October Holiday	12 October 2026	23 October 2026	12	Holiday
October In-Service Days	26 October 2026	27 October 2026	2	In-service
Christmas Holiday	21 December 2026	4 January 2027	15	Holiday
February Holiday	11 February 2027	15 February 2027	5	Holiday
February In-Service Day	16 February 2027	16 February 2027	1	In-service
Spring Holiday	29 March 2027	9 April 2027	12	Holiday
May Day	3 May 2027	3 May 2027	1	Holiday
May In-Service Day	31 May 2027	31 May 2027	1	In-service
Summer Holiday	3 July 2027	16 August 2027	45	Holiday

When do pupils go back?

The first day pupils are back in class after each break, with weekends and any in-service day on the return already skipped.

After the October Holiday	28 October 2026
After the Christmas Holiday	5 January 2027
After the February Holiday	17 February 2027
After the Spring Holiday	12 April 2027
After the May Day	4 May 2027

Looking ahead: 2027/28

Provisional. Orkney Islands has not published confirmed 2027/28 dates yet — these follow the typical regional pattern and will be updated once the council confirms. Do not book holidays, flights or childcare on these dates.

Term is expected to start 16 August 2027 and end 23 June 2028.

PERIOD	STARTS	ENDS	DAYS	TYPE
Autumn In-Service	13 September 2027	14 September 2027	2	In-service
October Holiday	11 October 2027	15 October 2027	5	Holiday
Christmas Holiday	20 December 2027	5 January 2028	17	Holiday
February Holiday	14 February 2028	15 February 2028	2	Holiday
February In-Service	16 February 2028	16 February 2028	1	In-service
Easter Holiday	3 April 2028	14 April 2028	12	Holiday
May Day	1 May 2028	1 May 2028	1	Holiday

May In-Service	4 May 2028	4 May 2028	1	In-service
Summer Holiday	26 June 2028	11 August 2028	47	Holiday

Source

Free from EduSCOT, Scotland's education guide for parents. The live page at <https://eduscot.co.uk/school-holidays/orkney-islands> carries the same dates plus a calendar (.ics) download, a comparison with any other council and the council's clothing grant and placing-request deadline. Official source: <https://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/S/schools.htm>