



Equity, Excellence, Evolution

*The Five Islands Academy is an all-age, multi-site, Church of England Academy,
serving the island communities of Bryher, St Agnes, St Martin's, St Mary's and Tresco.
It is part of the Leading Edge Academies Partnership.*

Monday 13th October 2025

2026-27 Term Dates: Advance Notice

Dear Parents and Carers

Our term dates for 2026-27 will be published later this term, and will be aligned with Truro & Penwith Academies Trust, as we continue to work towards joining TPAT during this academic year. As yet, the TPAT term dates have not been finalised, and a consultation on dates from Kelley Butcher accompanies this letter. However, we are aware that many of our parents book Autumn half-term holidays a year in advance. We therefore wanted to give you early information if possible to support you with booking holidays that will not impact on your children's attendance at school.

The proposed dates for Autumn 2026 are:

- Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September: INSET Days
- Thursday 3rd September: Term starts for children
- Friday 16th October: Term finishes at the usual time of 3.15pm
- Monday 19th to Friday 30th October: Half term
- Monday 2nd November: Term starts again at 8.40/8.45am

We also wanted to clarify why we are finishing terms and half terms at the usual time of 3.15pm, rather than having an early finish so that families can catch the Scillonian. This is because the new Scillonian Friday sailing time of 2.00pm means that children would have to leave school before our afternoon registration time, and would therefore miss a whole session of school. In order to meet our statutory 190 days (380 sessions) of education provision, we are not able to finish early without adding extra days to our school calendar.

We do, of course, understand the challenges of travel away from Scilly and the need to plan for potential weather disruption. However, we would strongly urge you to book your trips to fit within the school holiday period given, in order to maximise your children's attendance at school and therefore

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support their progress and learning. The law states that a planned absence from school may only be authorised for pupils in 'exceptional circumstances', and in order to fulfil our duties set out in the government guidance *Working Together to Improve School Attendance 2024*, we are unable to authorise absences for family holidays beyond the dates named for the Autumn half term.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Lewin

Interim Headteacher