

Organisation of School Time in Europe

Primary and general secondary education

2011/12 school year

AUSTRIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	5 September 2011: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 12 September 2011: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	5 September 2011: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 12 September 2011: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
End of students' school year	29 June 2012: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 6 July 2012: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	29 June 2012: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 6 July 2012: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
Autumn holidays	1 week 27 – 31 October 2011 (Vorarlberg*)	1 week 27 – 31 October 2011 (Vorarlberg*)
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2011 – 7 January 2012	2 weeks 24 December 2011 – 7 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	1 week 6 – 11 February 2012: Niederösterreich, Wien 13 – 18 February 2012: Burgenland, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol, Vorarlberg 20 – 25 February 2012: Oberösterreich, Steiermark	1 week 6 – 11 February 2012: Niederösterreich, Wien 13 – 18 February 2012: Burgenland, Kärnten, Salzburg, Tirol, Vorarlberg 20 – 25 February 2012: Oberösterreich, Steiermark
Spring/Easter	1 week 31 March - 10 April 2012	1 week 31 March – 10 April 2012
Third term	4 days 26 – 29 May 2012	4 days 26 – 29 May 2012
Summer	About 9 weeks 30 June – 1 September 2012: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 7 July – 8 September 2012: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg	About 9 weeks 30 June – 1 September 2012: Burgenland, Niederösterreich, Wien 7 July – 8 September 2012: Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg
Public/religious holidays	26 October 2011 1 November 2011 2 November 2011 8 December 2011 17 May 2012 7 June 2012 1 extra religious holiday (Saint – different in each <i>Land</i>)	26 October 2011 1 November 2011 2 November 2011 8 December 2011 17 May 2012 7 June 2012 1 extra religious holiday (Saint – different in each <i>Land</i>)
Starting/End date of teachers' school year	The teachers' school year is the same as the pupils' school year	The teachers' school year is the same as the pupils' school year

*) The autumn holidays in Vorarlberg are decreed by the educational authority of this *Land*. To enable these holidays, Easter and third term holidays are shortened in this *Land*.

BELGIUM (FLEMISH COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of students' school year	30 June 2012	30 June 2012
Autumn holidays	1 week 31 October – 6 November 2011	1 week 31 October – 6 November 2011
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 26 December 2011 – 8 January 2012	2 weeks 26 December 2011 – 8 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	1 week 20 – 26 February 2012	1 week 20 – 26 February 2012
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 2 – 15 April 2012	2 weeks 2 – 15 April 2012
Third term	–	–
Summer	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2012	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2012
Public/religious holidays	11 November 2011 1 May 2012 17/18 May 2012 28 May 2012	11 November 2011 1 May 2012 17/18 May 2012 28 May 2012
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2012	30 June 2012

Source: Eurydice.

BELGIUM (FRENCH COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of students' school year	30 June 2012	30 June 2012
Autumn holidays	1 week 31 October – 4 November 2011	1 week 31 October – 4 November 2011
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 26 December 2011 – 6 January 2012	2 weeks 26 December 2011 – 6 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	1 week 20 – 24 February 2012	1 week 20 – 24 February 2012
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 2 – 13 April 2012	2 weeks 2 – 13 April 2012
Third term	–	–
Summer	9 weeks 2 July – 31 August 2012	9 weeks 2 July – 31 August 2012
Public/religious holidays	7 days 27 September 2011 11 November 2011 30 April 2012 1 May 2012 17 May 2012 18 May 2012 28 May 2012	7 days 27 September 2011 11 November 2011 30 April 2012 1 May 2012 17 May 2012 18 May 2012 28 May 2012
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2012	30 June 2012

Source: Eurydice

BELGIUM (GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY)

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of students' school year	30 June 2012	30 June 2012
Autumn holidays	1 week 31 October – 4 November 2011	1 week 31 October – 4 November 2011
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 27 December 2011 – 7 January 2012	2 weeks 27 December 2011 – 7 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	1 week 20 – 24 February 2012	1 week 20 – 24 February 2012
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 2 – 13 April 2012	2 weeks 2 – 13 April 2012
Third term	–	–
Summer	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2012	9 weeks 1 July – 31 August 2012
Public/religious holidays	6 days 1 November 2011 11 November 2011 15 November 2011 1 May 2012 13 June 2012 28 May 2012 + 2 days of holidays of choice of the institution	6 days 1 November 2011 11 November 2011 15 November 2011 1 May 2012 13 June 2012 28 May 2012 + 2 days of holidays of choice of the institution
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2012	30 June 2012

Additional notes:

- During the last working days of August, secondary education teachers may be consigned to conduct exams of a second chance.
- A school year has a min. of 180 and a max. of 184 days of schooldays, for 2011/12, the number of days will be 181.
- As the 1 November is a religious holiday (*Allerheiligen* – All Saints' Day) and at the same time autumn vacation, it is left to the school to choose a compensation day.

CYPRUS

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	8 September 2011	9 September 2011 (see additional notes)
End of students' school year	20 June 2012	(see additional notes)
Autumn holidays	–	–
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 23 December 2011 – 6 January 2012	2 weeks 24 December 2011 – 6 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	–	–
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 9 – 20 April 2012 (the 20 th is included)	2 weeks 9 – 20 April 2012 (the 20 th is included)
Third term	–	–
Summer	11 weeks 21 June 2012 – 5 September 2012	9 weeks 1 July 2012 – 31 August 2012
Public/religious holidays	1 October 2011 28 October 2011 13 November 2011 30 January 2012 27 February 2012 25 March 2012 1 April 2012 1 May 2012 24 May 2012 4 June 2012 11 June 2012	1 October 2011 28 October 2011 13 November 2011 30 January 2012 27 February 2012 25 March 2012 1 April 2012 1 May 2012 4 June 2012 11 June 2012
Starting date of teachers' school year	5 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of teachers' school year	22 June 2012	30 June 2012

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

Secondary Education

Classes may begin on any day during the first ten days of September, the exact date in each year is defined by the Minister of Education and Culture. For the Lower Secondary Education classes may end on any day during the first ten days of June, and for the Upper Secondary Education during the last ten days of May. The exact date is again defined by the Minister.

For the General secondary education, the end of the school year comes at the end of June and includes exams, correction of papers, result announcements.

CYPRUS (CONTINUED)

Teachers

The official school year is longer for teachers in both primary and secondary education as it includes registration days, sorting out of schools and classes and exam periods.

In primary and secondary general education according to the law, the official school year is from 1 September 2011 until the 31 August 2012.

Teachers however, need to be at school from 1 September 2011 until 30 June 2011 for school work for secondary education and from 5 September 2011 until 22 June 2012 for primary education.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of students' school year	29 June 2012	29 June 2012
Autumn holidays	2 days 26 and 27 October 2011	2 days 26 and 27 October 2011
Christmas/New Year	23 December 2011 – 2 January 2012	23 December 2011 – 2 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	1 day 3 February 2012	1 day 3 February 2012
Spring/Easter	1 week between 6 February and 18 March 2012 depending on the region 2 days 5 and 6 April 2012	1 week between 6 February and 18 March 2012 depending on the region 2 days 5 and 6 April 2012
Third term	–	–
Summer	30 June – 2 September 2012	30 June – 2 September 2012
Public/religious holidays	28 September 2011 28 October 2011 17 November 2011 9 April 2012 1 May 2012 8 May 2012	28 September 2011 28 October 2011 17 November 2011 9 April 2012 1 May 2012 8 May 2012
Starting date of teachers' school year	Not specified	Not specified
End of teachers' school year	Not specified	Not specified

CZECH REPUBLIC (CONTINUED)

SPECIFICATION OF TERMS FOR SPRING HOLIDAYS	
Term 2012	Regions
06 – 12 February	Praha 1 až 5, Blansko, Brno-město, Brno-venkov, Břeclav, Hodonín, Vyškov, Znojmo, Domažlice, Tachov, Louny, Prostějov, Karviná
13 – 19 February	Praha 6 až 10, Cheb, Karlovy Vary, Sokolov, Nymburk, Jindřichův Hradec, Litoměřice, Děčín, Přešov, Frýdek-Místek
20 – 26 February	Kroměříž, Uherské Hradiště, Vsetín, Zlín, Praha-východ, Praha-západ, Mělník, Rakovník, Plzeň-město, Plzeň-sever, Plzeň-jih, Hradec Králové, Teplice, Nový Jičín
27 February – 4 March	Česká Lípa, Jablonec nad Nisou, Liberec, Semily, Havlíčkův Brod, Jihlava, Pelhřimov, Třebíč, Žďár nad Sázavou, Kladno, Kolín, Kutná Hora, Písek, Náchod, Bruntál
05 – 11 March	Mladá Boleslav, Příbram, Tábor, Prachatice, Strakonice, Ústí nad Labem, Chomutov, Most, Jičín, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Olomouc, Šumperk, Opava, Jeseník
12 – 18 March	Benešov, Beroun, Rokycany, České Budějovice, Český Krumlov, Klatovy, Trutnov, Pardubice, Chrudim, Svitavy, Ústí nad Orlicí, Ostrava-město

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

According to the Labour Code, the holidays for **teachers** at primary or secondary level is 8 weeks each calendar year. They take it primarily in the time of school holidays.

DENMARK

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary and lower secondary education (<i>Folkeskole</i>)	General secondary education (<i>Gymnasium</i>)
Starting date of students' school year	17 August 2011	17 August 2011
End of students' school year	29 June 2012	29 June 2012
Autumn holidays	15 – 23 October 2011	17 – 23 October 2011
Christmas/New Year	23 December 2011 – 2 January 2012	21 December 2011 – 3 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	11 – 19 February 2012	13 – 17 February 2012
Spring/Easter	31 March – 9 April 2012	2 – 9 April 2012
Third term	-	-
Summer	25 June – 9 August 2012	25 June – 10 August 2012
Public/religious holidays	4 May 2012 17 – 20 May 2012 28 May 2012 5 June 2012	4 May 2012 17 – 20 May 2012 28 May 2012 5 June 2012
Starting date of teachers' school year	Not determined at central level – differs at the various schools / institutions. In general the teachers start a few days before the pupils/students.	Not determined at central level – differs at the various schools / institutions. In general the teachers start a few days before the pupils/students.
End of teachers' school year	Not determined at central level. Usually the teachers' school year follows that of the pupils/students.	Not determined at central level. Usually the teachers' school year follows that of the pupils/students.

Source: Eurydice.

Additional notes:

The abovementioned dates for the *Folkeskole* are a sample from the municipality of Hørsholm ⁽¹⁾, as the dates vary slightly on a national scale. E.g. the winter/carnival holiday thus depends on the municipality which usually decides whether the holiday is in week 7 or 8. The dates for upper secondary education are taken from Gammel Hellerup Gymnasium ⁽²⁾.

Folkeskole, that is schools offering comprehensive primary and lower secondary education are at liberty to decide on the number of holidays and their distribution, given that they offer a minimum of 200 school days each year. The Ministry of Education determines the last day of the school year, which is the case for both primary, lower secondary and general upper secondary education. In addition, the Ministry may also issue guidelines regarding the distribution of holidays.

⁽¹⁾ http://rungstedskole.horsholm.dk/OmSkolen/Praktiske_oplysniger/Ferieplan/Ferieplan_1011_11112_1213.htm

⁽²⁾ <http://www.ghg.dk/ferieplan-2011-12>

ESTONIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 20011/12 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of students' school year	31 August 2012	31 August 2012
Autumn holidays	1 week 22 – 30 October 2011	1 week 22 – 30 October 2011
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 23 December 2011 – 8 January 2012	2 weeks 23 December 2011 – 8 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	–	–
Spring/Easter	1 week 17 – 25 March 2012	1 week 17 – 25 March 2012
Third term	–	–
Summer	12 ½ weeks 6 June – 31 August 2012	12 ½ weeks 6 June – 31 August 2012
Public/religious holidays	3 days 24 February 2012 6 April 2012 1 May 2012	3 days 24 February 2012 6 April 2012 1 May 2012
Starting date of teachers' school year	The beginning and the end of a teacher's school year depend on the individual school and teacher. According to the legislation, teachers have 56 days (8 weeks) of vacation. Generally, they go on vacation in the middle of June and are back in the middle of August.	
End of teachers' school year		

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

The Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act stipulates that an academic year shall start on 1 September and a study period shall include not less than 175 days of study (35 weeks). School holidays (and accordingly the end of the school year) are determined by a regulation of the Minister of Education for every school year.

FINLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 9 and 16 August 2011	Between 9 and 16 August 2011
End of students' school year	2 June 2012	2 June 2012
Autumn holidays	2-7 days in October 2011	2-7 days in October 2011
Christmas/New Year	1-2 weeks between 19 December 2011 and 8 January 2012	1-2 weeks between 19 December 2011 and 8 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	1 week between 20 February and 11 March 2012	1 week between 20 February and 11 March 2012
Spring/Easter	4 days between 6 and 9 April 2012	4 days between 6 and 9 April 2012
Third term	–	–
Summer	10-11 weeks between 2 June to mid-August 2012	10-11 weeks between 2 June to mid-August 2012
Public/religious holidays	6 January 2012 (Epiphany) 17 May 2012 (Ascension day)	6 January 2012 (Epiphany) 17 May 2012 (Ascension day)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Between 8 and 16 August 2011 ⁽¹⁾	Between 8 and 16 August 2011 ⁽¹⁾
End of teachers' school year	2 June 2012	2 June 2012

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Independence day, Epiphany and 1 May are deducted from the total number of school days (190 days) if they are on any weekday other than Saturday. In the school year 2011/12 the number of school days will consequently be 187.

⁽¹⁾ There are no exact starting and ending dates of teachers' school year because their duties are regulated according to the collective agreement for teachers. In the agreement the parties have agreed that the teachers have a calculatory holiday, which begins in mid-June and the length of holiday depends mainly on years in occupation. In practice teachers' holidays coincide with the pupils' holidays. However, teachers have their planning and INSET obligations, which they have to do during both during the school year and outside the school year.

FRANCE

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	5 September 2011	5 September 2011
End of students' school year	5 July 2012	5 July 2012
Autumn holidays	1 ½ week 22 October – 3 November 2011	1 ½ week 22 October – 3 November 2011
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 17 December 2011 – 3 January 2012	2 weeks 17 December 2011 – 3 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	2 weeks 11 – 27 February 2012 (zone A) 25 February – 12 March 2012 (zone B) 18 February – 5 March 2012 (zone C)	2 weeks 11 – 27 February 2012 (zone A) 25 February – 12 March 2012 (zone B) 18 February – 5 March 2012 (zone C)
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 7 – 23 April 2012 (zone A) 21 April – 7 May 2012 (zone B) 14 – 30 April 2012 (zone C)	2 weeks 7 – 23 April 2012 (zone A) 21 April – 7 May 2012 (zone B) 14 – 30 April 2012 (zone C)
Third term	–	–
Summer	9 weeks 5 July – 4 September 2012	9 weeks 5 July – 4 September 2012
Public/religious holidays	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 1 November 2011 11 November 2011 9 April 2012 1 May 2012 8 May 2012 17 May 2012 28 May 2012	The following dates are regarded as public holidays by all institutions: 1 November 2011 11 November 2011 9 April 2012 1 May 2012 8 May 2012 17 May 2012 28 May 2012
Starting date of teachers' school year	2 September 2011	2 September 2011
End of teachers' school year	5 July 2012	5 July 2012

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

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

GERMANY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year

Starting date of students' school year	1 August 2011 begin of official school year <i>(for details see table I)</i>
End of students' school year	31 July 2012 end of official school year <i>(for details see table I)</i>
Autumn holidays	3 to 12 days staggered between 4 October and 5 November 2011 <i>(for details see table II)</i>
Christmas/New Year	8 to 15 days staggered between 21 December 2011 and 7 January 2012 <i>(for details see table II)</i>
Winter/Carnival	0 to 12 days staggered between 30 January and 25 February 2012 <i>(for details see table II)</i>
Spring/Easter	6 to 15 days staggered between 5 March and 14 April 2012 <i>(for details see table II)</i>
Third term	0 to 11 days staggered between 30 April and 9 June 2012 <i>(for details see table II)</i>
Summer	6 weeks staggered between 20 June and 12 September 2012 <i>(for details see table I)</i>
Public/religious holidays	Up to 10 days, depending on the <i>Land</i>
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 August 2011 (official date)
End of teachers' school year	31 July 2012 (official date)

Source: Eurydice

**TABLE I: Specification for starting/end of students' school year
and summer holidays**

	Beginning of students' school year 2011/12	End of students' school year 2011/12	Summer holidays 2012
Hessen / Rheinland-Pfalz	6 August 2011	30 June 2012	2 July – 10 August
Saarland	6 August 2011	30 June 2012	2 July – 14 August
Hamburg	11 August 2011	20 June 2012	21 June – 1 August
Berlin	13 August 2011	20 June 2012	21 June – 3 August
Brandenburg	15 August 2011	20 June 2012	21 June – 4 August
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	15 August 2011	22 June 2012	23 June – 4 August
Schleswig-Holstein	15 August 2011	23 June 2012	25 June – 4 August
Bremen / Niedersachsen	18 August 2011	21 July 2012	23 July – 31 August
Sachsen / Thüringen	20 August 2011	21 July 2012	23 July – 31 August
Sachsen-Anhalt	25 August 2011	21 July 2012	23 July – 5 September
Nordrhein-Westfalen	7 September 2011	7 July 2012	9 July – 21 August
Baden-Württemberg	12 September 2011	25 July 2012	26 July – 8 September
Bayern	13 September 2011	31 July 2012	1 August – 12 September

GERMANY (CONTINUED)

TABLE II: Specification of shorter holiday periods

Land	Autumn 2011	Christmas /New Year 2011/12	Winter 2012	Spring / Easter 2012	3 rd term 2012
Baden-Württemberg	2 Nov.-4 Nov.	23 Dec.-5 Jan.	-	2 April-13 April	29 May-9 June
Bayern	31 Oct.-5 Nov.	27 Dec.-5 Jan.	20 Febr.-24 Febr.	2 April-14 April	29 May-6 June
Berlin	4 Oct.-14 Oct.	23 Dec.-3 Jan.	30 Jan.-4 Febr.	2 April-14 April	30 April 18 May
Brandenburg	4 Oct.- 14 Oct.	23 Dec.-3 Jan.	30 Jan.-4 Febr.	4 April-14 April	30 April 18 May
Bremen	17 Oct.-29 Oct.	23 Dec.-4 Jan.	30 Jan.-31 Jan.	26 March-11 April	29 May
Hamburg	4 Oct.-14 Oct.	27 Dec.-6 Jan.	30 January	5 March-16 March	30 April-4 May 18 May
Hessen	10 Oct.-22 Oct.	21 Dec.-6 Jan.	-	2 April-14 April	-
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	17 Oct.-21 Oct.	23 Dec.-03 Jan.	6 Febr.-17 Febr.	2 April-11 April	25-29 May
Niedersachsen	17 Oct.-29 Oct.	23 Dec.-4 Jan.	30 Jan.- 31 Jan.	26 March-11 April	30 April 18 May 29 May
Nordrhein-Westfalen	24 Oct.-5 Nov.	23 Dec.-6 Jan.	-	2 April-14 April	29 May
Rheinland-Pfalz	4 Oct.-14 Oct.	22 Dec.-6 Jan.	-	29 March-13 April	18 May 8 June
Saarland	04 Oct.-15 Oct.	23 Dec.-4 Jan.	20 Febr.-25 Febr.	2 April-14 April	-
Sachsen	17 Oct.-28 Oct.	23 Dec.-2 Jan.	13 Febr.-25 Febr.	6 April-14 April	18 May
Sachsen-Anhalt	17 Oct.-22 Oct.	22 Dec.-7 Jan.	4 Febr.-11 Febr.	2 April-07 April	21-26 May
Schleswig-Holstein	10 Oct.-22 Oct.	23 Dec.-6 Jan.	-	30 March-13 April	18 May
Thüringen	17 Oct.-28 Oct.	23 Dec.-31 Dec.	6 Febr.-11 Febr.	2 April-13 April	25-29 May

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

In accordance with the *Hamburg Agreement* between the *Länder* on harmonisation in the school system, the school year begins on 01 August and ends on 31 July. The actual beginning and end depend on the dates of the summer holidays which vary from one year to the other.

GREECE

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	12 September 2011	12 September 2011
End of students' school year	15 June 2012	The date in question (usually around the 20th May), set by a Ministerial Decision, is subject to annual arrangement both for the lower and the upper secondary education
Autumn holidays	–	–
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2011 – 7 January 2012	2 weeks 24 December 2011 – 7 January 2012
Winter/Carnival		
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 9 – 22 April 2012	2 weeks 9 – 22 April 2012
Third term		
Summer	± 12 weeks 22 June – 10 September 2012	± 10 weeks 1 July – 10 September 2012
Public/religious holidays	7 national/religious holidays 28 October 2011 17 November 2011 30 January 2012 27 February 2012 25 March 2012 1 May 2012 4 June 2012 and some regional holidays	7 national/religious holidays 28 October 2011 17 November 2011 30 January 2012 27 February 2012 25 March 2012 1 May 2012 4 June 2012 and some regional holidays
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of teachers' school year	21 June 2012	30 June 2012

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Official School Year: 1 September 2011 to 31 August 2012

Didactic Year: 1 September 2011 to 21 June 2012 (Primary Education)

1 September 2011 to 30 June 2012 (Secondary Education)

HUNGARY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of students' school year	15 June 2012	15 June 2012 (3 May 2012 in the final upper secondary grade)
Autumn holidays	9 days including 2 weekends and one public holiday 29 October – 6 November 2011	9 days including 2 weekends and one public holiday 29 October – 6 November 2011
Christmas/New Year	12 days including 2 weekends and one public holiday 22 December 2011 – 2 January 2012	12 days including 2 weekends and one public holiday 22 December 2011 – 2 January 2012
Winter/Carnival		
Spring/Easter	5 days including one weekend and one public holiday 5 – 9 April 2012	5 days including one weekend and one public holiday 5 – 9 April 2012
Third term	-	-
Summer	11 weeks 16 June – 31 August 2012	11 weeks 16 June – 31 August 2012
Public/religious holidays	1 day 15 March 2012 (Revolution Day) 1 May 2012 (Labour Day) 28 May 2012 (Whit Monday)	1 day 15 March 2012 (Revolution Day) 1 May 2012 (Labour Day) 28 May 2012 (Whit Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Autonomy of the educational institution takes into account the concerning legal provision*	Autonomy of the educational institution takes into account the concerning legal provision*
End of teachers' school year	Autonomy of the educational institution takes into account the concerning legal provision*	Autonomy of the educational institution takes into account the concerning legal provision*

Source: Eurydice

HUNGARY (CONTINUED)

Additional notes:

According to the Act on Public Education, the minister responsible for education specifies the schedule of the academic year in a ministerial decree. Article 52 of the Act stipulates that the school term-time or the academic year commences on the first working day of September every year and concludes on 15 June every year or on the working day which precedes 15 June if it is not a working day. The school, while leaving the first and last school day of the academic year unchanged, may give further holidays (5 days in primary and 6 days in secondary education) 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 to celebrate national traditions. (Source: Decree No. 30/2011 (VI. 7.) of the Minister for National Resources on the organization of school year of 2011/2012).

* Act No. XXXIII. of 1992 on the legal status of public servants and the Government Decree No. 138/1992 stipulate that the holidays of teachers primarily have to be given during the summer holiday. If not all days can be taken during that, the rest has to be provided during the autumn, winter or spring holidays. (For teachers the autumn, winter and spring holidays are workdays without teaching). Furthermore teachers have 5 days off at their disposal that they can take during the school year by their choice.

ICELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary and lower secondary education	General upper secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 22 and 29 August 2011	Between 22 and 26 August 2011
End of students' school year	Between 31 May and 5 June 2012	Between 21 and 25 May 2012
Autumn holidays	0-3 days in October 2011	0-3 days in October 2011
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 21 December 2011 – 4 January 2012	2 weeks 21 December 2011 – 4 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	0-5 days in February 2012	0-5 days in February 2012
Spring/Easter	9 days 2 – 11 April 2012	9 days 2 – 11 April 2012
Third term	–	–
Summer	11 weeks Between 5 June and 21 August 2012	12 weeks Between 25 May and 22 August 2010
Public/religious holidays	4 days 19 April 2012 1 May 2012 17 May 2012 28 May 2012	4 days 19 April 2012 1 May 2012 17 May 2012 28 May 2012
Starting date of teachers' school year	Between 15 and 22 August 2011	Between 19 and 24 August 2011
End of teachers' school year	Between 6 and 11 June 2012	Between 25 and 1 June 2012

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

According to teachers wage contracts compulsory school teachers shall work in schools 4 days before the beginning of the school year and 4 days after the formal end of the school year. Upper secondary school teachers have a total of 4 working days before the beginning and/or the end of the school year.

IRELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	First week of September 2011 ⁽¹⁾	Circa 30 August 2011
End of students' school year	End of June 2012 ⁽²⁾	End of State Examinations in June 2012
Autumn holidays	1 week 31 October – 4 November 2011 (inclusive)	1 week 31 October – 4 November 2011 (inclusive)
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 23 December 2011 – 6 January 2012 (inclusive)	2 weeks 23 December 2011 – 6 January 2012 (inclusive)
Winter/Carnival	2 days 16 & 17 February 2012 ⁽³⁾	1 week 13 – 17 February 2012 (inclusive)
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 2 – 13 April 2012 (inclusive)	2 weeks 2 – 13 April 2012 (inclusive)
Third term	–	–
Summer	About 9 weeks End of June until week of 1 September 2012	About 12 weeks June, July and most of August 2012
Public/religious holidays	19 March 2012 7 May 2012 4 June 2012 and some religious holidays	19 March 2012 7 May 2012 4 June 2012 and some religious holidays
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of teachers' school year	31 August 2012	31 August 2012

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Primary Education

- ⁽¹⁾ In order to meet the overall requirement of 183 days at primary level, the school year will normally commence in the week that the 1st September falls. The exact date is determined locally at Board of Management level.
- ⁽²⁾ School may use their own discretion to determine the precise ending of the school year in June, providing it has met the overall requirement of 183 days.
- ⁽³⁾ Primary school may use 3 discretionary days to extend their Winter/Carnival break to an alternative option of a 5 day break.

Circular 0034/2011 sets out the standardised school breaks at primary level for the school years 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14.

IRELAND (CONTINUED)

The arrangements for standardised closure at primary level (Circular 0034/2011) are agreed without prejudice to closure on specific days, within the overall requirement of 183 days at primary level, dictated by religious observance that is required in schools under patronage of different denominations or faiths. In the absence of an adequate number of discretionary days a school authority may choose to utilise a religious observation day for non-tuition purpose when planning the school year.

The existing arrangements for school breaks may provide some limited flexibility to schools on certain other days outside of the defined periods. The scheduling of such days must not be used to extend or modify the period set out above in respect of mid-term, Christmas and Easter breaks save where religious observance requirements of a school under a particular patronage makes this necessary.

It was not a requirement of this agreement that the commencement or end of the school year either at primary or post primary level should be standardised.

General Secondary

In accordance with Circular M29/95, the minimum number of teaching days per post-primary school will be 167. In addition, in accordance with Circular 0034/2011, holiday periods during the school year have been standardised, i.e. midterm breaks, Christmas and Easter holidays. Traditionally, formal instruction ends in post-primary schools on the Friday preceding the June bank holiday weekend. State examinations normally commence the following Wednesday. In order for schools to meet their requirement to be open for 167 days during 2011/12 school year, it is expected that post-primary schools will be open circa 30 August 2011.

The above holidays are standardised in accordance with Circular 0034/2011. The school year at post-primary level is very tight and does not 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 which 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 the end of year State exams.

ITALY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 12 and 19 September 2011	Between 12 and 19 September 2011
End of students' school year	Between 9 and 16 June 2012	Between 9 and 16 June 2012
Autumn holidays	–	–
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks Between 22/24 December 2011 and 6/8 January 2012	2 weeks Between 22/24 December 2011 and 6/8 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	1 to 5 days Generally in February/March, depending on the regions	1 to 5 days Generally in February/March, depending on the regions
Spring/Easter	4 to 8 days Between 2/16 April and 9/23 April 2011, depending on the regions	4 to 8 days Between 2/16 April and 9/23 April 2011, depending on the regions
Third term	–	–
Summer	12 – 13 weeks Between June and September 2012	12 – 13 weeks Between June and September 2012
Public/religious holidays	5 national holidays 1 November 2011 8 December 2011 25 April 2012 1 May 2012 2 June 2012 and Saints' days, depending on the regions	5 national holidays 1 November 2011 8 December 2011 25 April 2012 1 May 2012 2 June 2012 and Saints' days, depending on the regions
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of teachers' school year	31 August 2012	31 August 2012

Source: Eurydice

ITALY (CONTINUED)

Specification of terms for the beginning and the end of the school year 2011/12		
Primary and general secondary education		
	Beginning 2011	End 2012
Abruzzo	13 September	9 June
Alto Adige (Bolzano)	12 September	16 June
Basilicata	19 September	16 June
Calabria	12 September	9 June
Campania	14 September	9 June
Emilia-Romagna	19 September	9 June
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	12 September	9 June
Lazio	12 September	9 June
Liguria	12 September	9 June
Lombardia	12 September	9 June
Marche	12 September	9 June
Molise	12 September	9 June
Piemonte	12 September	13 June
Puglia	15 September	9 June
Sardegna	15 September	9 June
Sicilia	15 September	12 June
Toscana	14 September	9 June
Trentino (Trento)	12 September	9 June
Umbria	12 September	9 June
Valle d'Aosta	12 September	9 June
Veneto	12 September	9 June

Additional notes:

Schools can adjust the school calendar, established by the Regions, to the POF's requirements (the POF is the basic document of the cultural and planning identity of each school. It defines the curricular, extra-curricular, educational and organisational projects of each school). Schools can organise in a flexible way the overall timetable for the curriculum and for any single subject even on the basis of multi-week planning, provided that lessons spread over a minimum of five days per week and that the prescribed annual, pluriennial or cycle number of hours for the single subjects is complied with. Generally speaking, the school year begins between the 2nd and the 4th week of September and finishes between the 1st and the 3rd week of June. The school adaptations of the school time should guarantee at least 200 days of lesson in the school year.

According to school autonomy, schools have up to 5 or 6 days available, which are foreseen for the suspension of educational activities.

LATVIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of students' school year	31 May 2012	31 May 2012
Autumn holidays	1 week 24 – 28 October 2011	1 week 24 – 28 October 2011
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 26 December 2011 – 6 January 2012	2 weeks 26 December 2011 – 6 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	–	–
Spring/Easter	1 week 12 – 16 March 2012	1 week 12 – 16 March 2012
Third term	–	–
Summer	13 weeks 1 June – 31 August 2012	13 weeks 1 June – 31 August 2012
Public/religious holidays	5 public holidays 18 November 2011 6 April 2012 9 April 2012 1 May 2012 4 May 2012	5 public holidays 18 November 2011 6 April 2012 9 April 2012 1 May 2012 4 May 2012
Starting date of teachers' school year	See additional notes	See additional notes
End of teachers' school year	See additional notes	See additional notes

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Lower secondary education (Basic education): end of the school year for the 9th class: 15 June 2012.

Upper secondary education: end of the school year for the 12th class: 22 June 2012.

The school year is divided in two semesters: the first from 1 September to 23 December 2011 and the second from 9 January to 31 May 2012 (or 15 June for the 9th class and 22 June for the 12th class).

Extension of the school year for classes 1-8 and 10-11 may be made if specific circumstances hindering education process arise during the school year (e.g. extreme temperature, strike, emergency situation in school, etc.).

Education institutions decide when to carry out a 1 week long project week in the second semester.

Holidays (summer 2012): These are the dates for the official summer holiday period for classes 1-8 and 10-11. For the 1st class, education institutions decide on additional holidays of 1 week in the second semester (usually before Easter).

Public holidays: When the specific holidays of November 18 and May 4 fall on Saturday or Sunday, the holiday is transferred to the next working day.

Teachers: The teachers' school year concurs fully with students' year, but normally is longer and starts earlier, though the end and the start date is not defined officially. Teachers have the right to receive 8 weeks of paid annual leave in summer.

LIECHTENSTEIN

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year	
	Primary education and general secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	17 August 2011
End of students' school year	6 July 2012
Autumn holidays	2 weeks 1 – 16 October 2011
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 24 December 2011 – 8 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	1 week 18 – 26 February 2012
Spring/Easter	2½ weeks 5 April (from noon) – 22 April 2012
Summer	6 weeks 7 July – 19 August 2012
Public/religious holidays	8 September 2011 (The nativity of our lady) 1 November 2011 (All Saints Day) 8 December 2011 (Immaculate Conception) 25/26 December 2011 (Christmas Day/Boxing Day) 1 January 2012 (New Year) 6 January 2012 (Epiphany) 2/3 February 2012 (Candlemas) 19 March 2012 (St. Josephs Day) 8/9 April 2012 (Easter/Easter Monday) 1 May 2012 (Labour Day) 17/18 May 2012 (Ascension Day) 27/28 May 2012 (Whitsuntide/Whit Monday) 7/8 June 2012 (Corpus Christi)
Starting date of teachers' school year	17 August 2011
End of teachers' school year	1 July 2012

Source: Eurydice

http://www.llv.li/pdf-llv-sa-ferienkalender_0910_bis_1112.pdf

LITHUANIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of students' school year	1 June 2012	8 June 2012
Autumn holidays	1 week 31 October 2011 – 6 November 2011	1 week 31 October 2011 – 4 November 2011
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 27 December 2011 – 9 January 2012	2 weeks 27 December 2011 – 6 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	17 February 2012	17 February 2012
Spring/Easter	1 week 2 – 8 April 2012	1 week 2 – 6 April 2012
Third term	–	–
Summer	13 weeks 4 June – 31 August 2012	11 weeks 11 June – 31 August 2012
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2011 16 February 2012 11 March 2012	1 November 2011 16 February 2012 11 March 2012
Starting date of teachers' school year	following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher	following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher
End of teachers' school year	following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher	following the general teaching plans and subject to the agreement of the school head and teacher

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

The end of students' school year in grade 5 (first year of lower secondary education) is on 4 June 2012, grade 10 (last year of lower secondary education) is on 8 June 2012 and grade 12 (last year of upper secondary education) is on 31 May 2012.

Additional 2-week school holidays (twice in the year) are allocated to pupils of grades 1 to 5. The recommended time for pupils of grades 1-4 is: 20 – 24 February 2012 and 9 – 13 April 2012; for pupils of grade 5: 28 November – 2 December 2011 and 20 – 24 February 2012. Subject to the school council's approval, additional school holidays may be allocated at another time.

Summer holidays for students in grade 5 start on 4 June 2012.

The annual amount of leave for **teachers** is legislated as 56 calendar days. Normally, it is recommended that teachers take their annual leave during school summer holidays (i.e. teachers' leave is normally determined by the school calendar)

LUXEMBOURG

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	15 September 2011	15 September 2011
End of students' school year	15 July 2012	15 July 2012
Autumn holidays	1 week 29 October – 6 November 2011	1 week 29 October – 6 November 2011
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 17 December 2011 – 1 January 2012	2 weeks 17 December 2011 – 1 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	1 week 18 February – 26 February 2012	1 week 18 February – 26 February 2012
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 31 March– 15 April 2012	2 week 31 March– 15 April 2012
Third term	1 week 26 May – 3 June 2012	1 week 26 May – 3 June 2012
Summer	8 weeks 16 July – 14 September 2012	8 weeks 16 July – 14 September 2012
Public/religious holidays	4 days 1 May 2012 17 May 2012 2 June 2012 23 June 2012	4 days 1 May 2012 17 May 2012 2 June 2012 23 June 2012
Starting date of teachers' school year	15 September 2011	15 September 2011
End of teachers' school year	15 July 2012	15 July 2012

Source: Eurydice.

MALTA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	26 September 2011	26 September 2011
End of students' school year	27 June 2012	27 June 2012
Autumn holidays	1 – 3 November 2011	1 – 3 November 2011
Christmas/New Year	23 December 2011 - 6 January 2012	23 December 2011 - 6 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	20 – 21 February 2012	20 – 21 February 2012
Spring/Easter	4 – 11 April 2012	4 – 11 April 2012
Third term	12 April 2012 – 27 June 2012	12 April 2012 – 27 June 2012
Summer	28 June 2012 – 23 September 2012	28 June 2012 – 23 September 2012
Public/religious holidays	21 September 2011 8 December 2011 13 December 2011 25 December 2011 (Sunday) 1 January 2012 (Sunday) 10 February 2012 19 March 2012 31 March 2012 (Saturday) 6 April 2012 (Good Friday) 1 May 2012 7 June 2012 29 June 2012	21 September 2011 8 December 2011 13 December 2011 25 December 2011 (Sunday) 1 January 2012 (Sunday) 10 February 2012 19 March 2012 31 March 2012 (Saturday) 6 April 2012 (Good Friday) 1 May 2012 7 June 2012 29 June 2012
Starting date of teachers' school year	22 September 2011	22 September 2011
End of teachers' school year	6 July 2012	6 July 2012

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Half-yearly Examinations take place between 7 and 17 February 2012 for secondary school students and between 14 and 16 February 2012 for primary school pupils.

The Annual Examinations take place between 12 and 27 June 2012 for secondary school students and between 25 and 27 June 2012 for primary school pupils.

Students of year 6 in the Primary sit for Benchmark Exams held on the 4, 5, 6 June and Orals held on 11 and 12 of June 2012.

On 16, 19 and 20 September 2011 and on 9, 10 and 11 July 2012, teachers who are called to do so, attend in-service training (INSET) courses.

Dates for summer holidays indicated are for students. Teachers start their holidays later and start the school year earlier than students.

During June, schools are on half-days.

Teachers called upon to attend INSET courses in September start their school year on the 16 September 2011.

Teachers called upon to attend INSET courses in July end their school year on the 11 July 2012.

THE NETHERLANDS

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Northern region: 5 September 2011 Central region: 15 August 2011 Southern region: 22 August 2011	Northern region: 5 September 2011 Central region: 22 August 2011 Southern region: 29 August 2011
End of students' school year	Northern region: 20 July 2012 Central region: 6 July 2012 Southern region: 29 June 2012	Northern region: 13 July 2012 Central region: 6 July 2012 Southern region: 29 June 2012
Autumn holidays	Central and Northern region: 15 – 23 October 2011 Southern region: 22 – 30 October 2011	Central and Northern region: 15 – 23 October 2011 Southern region: 22 – 30 October 2011
Christmas/New Year	24 December 2011 – 8 January 2012	24 December 2011 – 8 January 2012
Winter/Carnival*)	Central region and Southern region: 18 – 26 February 2012 Northern region: 25 February – 4 March 2012	Central region and Southern region: 18 – 26 February 2012 Northern region: 25 February – 4 March 2012
Spring/Easter	-	-
Third term	28 April – 6 May 2012	28 April – 6 May 2012
Summer	Northern region: 21 July – 2 September 2012 Central region: 7 July – 19 August 2012 Southern region: 30 July – 12 August 2012	Northern region: 14 July – 2 September 2012 Central region: 7 July – 26 August 2012 Southern region: 30 July – 19 August 2012
Public/religious holidays	Boxing Day: 26 December 2011 Easter Monday: 9 April 2012 Queen's Birthday: 30 April 2012 Ascension Day: 17 May 2012 Whit Monday: 28 May 2012	Boxing Day: 26 December 2011 Easter Monday: 9 April 2012 Queen's Birthday: 30 April 2012 Ascension Day: 17 May 2012 Whit Monday: 28 May 2012
Starting date of teachers' school year	See additional notes	See additional notes
End of teachers' school year	See additional notes	See additional notes

Source: Eurydice

THE NETHERLANDS (CONTINUED)

Additional notes:

The school year officially runs from 1 August to 31 July of the following year. Start and end of the school year of the individual schools is according to the region (Northern, Central and Southern region).

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.

*) Carnival holiday is also called Spring Holiday or Crocus Holiday

The **teachers'** school year is similar to the students' school year. However, it is at the school's discretion to decide whether **teachers** are expected to end or start later (in order to attend meetings, for preparation of timetable, other non-teaching activities etc.).

NORWAY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 15 and 22 August 2011 Most counties: 17 – 20 August 2011	Between 15 and 22 August 2011 Most counties: 17 – 20 August 2010
End of students' school year	Between 18 and 22 June 2012	Between 18 and 22 June 2012
Autumn holidays	1 week (some just 2 days) Starting 3 or 10 October 2011 (week 40 or 41)	1 week (some just 2 days) Starting 3 or 10 October 2011 (week 40 or 41)
Christmas/New Year	Approx.: 2 weeks Between 19 – 22 December 2011 and 2 – 5 January 2012	Approx.: 2 weeks Between 19 – 22 December 2011 and 2 – 5 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	1 week Between 20 February and 2 March 2012 (Week 8 or 9)	1 week Between 20 February and 2 March 2012 (Week 8 or 9)
Spring/Easter	9 days Between 2 and 8 or 9 April 2012	9 days Between 2 and 8 or 9 April 2012
Third term	-	-
Summer	Approx.: 8 weeks Between 18 – 22 June and ca 15 – 22 August 2012	Approx.: 8 weeks Between 18 – 22 June and ca 15 – 22 August 2012
Public/religious holidays	1 May 2012 17 May 2012 28 May 2012 (Whit Monday)	1 May 2012 17 May 2012 28 May 2012 (Whit Monday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	See additional note	See additional note
End of teachers' school year	See additional note	See additional note

Source: KS/ Eurydice

Additional notes:

For the primary schools can the municipality decide individually the school holidays, as the counties can decide for the upper secondary schools.

The teachers' work during the school year is counted in working hours. That is 1 300 hours for primary education (ISCED 1), 1 225 hours for lower secondary education (ISCED 2) and 1 150 hours for upper secondary education. It is an individual matter for each school if the work hours, longer than for the students, are before the beginning or after the end of the school year.

POLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of students' school year	29 June 2012	29 June 2012
Autumn holidays	–	–
Christmas/New Year	1 week 23 – 31 December 2011	1 week 23 – 31 December 2011
Winter/Carnival	2 weeks 16 – 29 January 2012 <u>Regions:</u> Dolnośląskie Mazowieckie Opolskie Zachodniopomorskie 23 January – 5 February 2012 Podlaskie Warmińsko-Mazurskie 30 January – 12 February 2012 Lubelskie Łódzkie Podkarpackie Pomorskie Śląskie 13 - 26 February 2012 Kujawsko-Pomorskie Lubuskie Małopolskie Świętokrzyskie Wielkopolskie	2 weeks 16 – 29 January 2012 <u>Regions:</u> Dolnośląskie Mazowieckie Opolskie Zachodniopomorskie 23 January – 5 February 2012 Podlaskie Warmińsko-Mazurskie 30 January – 12 February 2012 Lubelskie Łódzkie Podkarpackie Pomorskie Śląskie 13 - 26 February 2012 Kujawsko-Pomorskie Lubuskie Małopolskie Świętokrzyskie Wielkopolskie
Spring/Easter	5 – 10 April 2012	5 – 10 April 2012
Third term	-	-
Summer	30 June – 2 September 2012	30 June – 2 September 2012
Public/religious holidays	1 November 2011 11 November 2011 6 January 2012 1-3 May 2012 7-8 June 2012	1 November 2011 11 November 2011 6 January 2012 1-3 May 2012 7-8 June 2012
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of teachers' school year	29 June 2012	29 June 2012

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

In addition, the school head has the possibility to determine some extra days off (up to 6 days for primary schools, basic vocational schools, post-secondary schools, continuous education institutions; up to 8 days for lower secondary schools; up to 10 days for upper secondary schools) that may be devoted to external tests and exams and/or religious festivals not being registered as official public holidays.

PORTUGAL

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 8 and 15 September 2011	Between 8 and 15 September 2011
End of students' school year	15 June 2012	8 June 2012 (6th, 9th, 11th and 12th grades) 15 June 2012 (5th, 7th, 8th and 10th grades)
First term	8/15 September – 19 December 2011	8/15 September – 19 December 2011
Christmas/New Year	19 December 2011 – 2 January 2012	19 December 2011 – 2 January 2012
Second term	3 January – 23 March 2012	3 January – 23 March 2012
Winter/Carnival	20 – 22 February 2012	20 – 22 February 2012
Spring/Easter	26 March – 9 April 2012	26 March – 9 April 2012
Third term	10 April – 8 June 2012	10 April – 8/15 June 2012
Summer	About 12 weeks 8 June – mid-September 2012	About 12 weeks 15 June (except for 6th, 9th, 11th and 12th grades, submitted to national exams) – mid-September 2012
Public/religious holidays	14 days: 5 October 2011 1 November 2011 1 December 2011 8 December 2011 25 December 2011 1 January 2012 21 February 2012 6 April 2012 8 April 2012 25 April 2012 1 May 2012 7 June 2012 10 June 2012 15 August 2012	14 days: 5 October 2011 1 November 2011 1 December 2011 8 December 2011 25 December 2011 1 January 2012 21 February 2012 6 April 2012 8 April 2012 25 April 2012 1 May 2012 7 June 2012 10 June 2012 15 August 2012
Starting date of teachers' school year	a) see additional notes	a) see additional notes
End of teachers' school year	a) see additional notes	a) see additional notes

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

a) The official length of teachers' school year goes from 1 September to 31 August. Teachers have the right to one month summer holidays, which they can enjoy during the months of June (at the end of pupils school year), July or August, according to the needs of the respective schools.

ROMANIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of students' school year	22 June 2012	22 June 2012
Autumn holidays	1 week 22 – 30 October 2011	–
Christmas/New Year	3 weeks 24 December 2011 – 15 January 2012	3 weeks 24 December 2011 – 15 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	–	–
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 7 – 22 April 2012	2 weeks 7 – 22 April 2012
Third term	–	–
Summer	11 weeks 23 June – 9 September 2012	11 weeks 23 June – 9 September 2012
Public/religious holidays	3 days 1 December 2011 (National holiday) 1 May 2012 (Labour Day) 4 June 2012 (Pentecost)	3 days 1 December 2011 (National holiday) 1 May 2012 (Labour Day) 4 June 2012 (Pentecost)
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of teachers' school year	31 August 2012	31 August 2012

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

In exceptional situations, depending on the local climatic conditions and school's specificity, the organisation of the school year can be modified at the request of schools, approved by the regional education authorities (County School Inspectorate). Approval is given if the number of 177 school days is maintained and all pupils may participate without restrictions in national examinations.

SLOVAKIA

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	2 September 2011	2 September 2011
End of students' school year	30 June 2012	30 June 2012
Autumn holidays	2 days 28 – 31 October 2011	2 days 28 – 31 October 2011
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks 23 December 2011 – 5 January 2012	2 weeks 23 December 2011 – 5 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	1 day 3 February 2012 1 week, according regions: 20 – 24 February 2012 Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava 27 February – 2 March 2012 Košice, Prešov 5 – 9 March 2012 Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín	1 day 3 February 2012 1 week, according regions: 20 – 24 February 2012 Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava 27 February – 2 March 2012 Košice, Prešov 5 – 9 March 2012 Banska Bystrica, Žilina, Trenčín
Spring/Easter	4 days (Easter holidays) 5 – 10 April 2012	4 days (Easter holidays) 5 – 10 April 2012
Third term	–	–
Summer	9 weeks 2 July – 31 August 2012	9 weeks 2 July – 31 August 2012
Public/religious holidays	7 days 1 September 2011 15 September 2011 1 November 2011 17 November 2011 6 January 2012 1 May 2012 8 May 2012	7 days 1 September 2011 15 September 2011 1 November 2011 17 November 2011 6 January 2012 1 May 2012 8 May 2012
Starting date of teachers' school year	Usually one week before beginning of the school year	Usually one week before beginning of the school year
End of teachers' school year	Usually, one week after summer holidays begin	Usually, one week after summer holidays begin

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

Official school year: 1 September to 31 August. If 2 September is Friday, Saturday or Sunday starting date of school year is next Monday.

Following the Labour Code, teachers and head teachers of schools at primary and secondary levels have 8 weeks of holidays per calendar year. They take it during the holidays. Usually, teachers work one week after beginning of summer holidays and one week before the beginning of the school year.

SLOVENIA

Organisation of school time in single structure education and general upper secondary education 2011/12 school year

	Single structure education	General upper secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of students' school year	22 June 2012 15 June 2012 (9th and final grade)	22 June 2012 29 May 2012 (final grade)
Autumn holidays	1 week 31 October – 6 November 2011	1 week 31 October – 6 November 2011
Christmas/New Year	1 week 26 December 2011 – 2 January 2012	1 week 26 December 2011 – 2 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	1 week 20 – 26 February 2012	1 week 20 – 26 February 2012
Spring/Easter	1 day 9 April 2012 (Easter Monday)	1 day 9 April 2012 (Easter Monday)
Third term	1 week 27 April – 2 May 2012	1 week 27 April – 2 May 2012
Summer	10 weeks 25 June – 31 August 2012	10 weeks 25 June – 31 August 2012
Public/religious holidays	8 February 2012 (<i>Prešern</i> Day – Day of Slovene Culture)	8 February 2012 (<i>Prešern</i> Day – Day of Slovene Culture)
Starting date of teachers' school year	At least 10 days before students	At least 10 to 15 days before students
End of teachers' school year	Beginning to mid-July 2012	Beginning to mid-July 2012

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

The school year officially lasts from 1 September to 31 August, however, the lessons end in June.

Single structure education: We have a single structure compulsory school of 9 years with no differences among separate stages.

Teachers' school year starts 10 to 15 days before the pupils'/students' school year and lasts until the beginning or mid July. The precise length depends on the individually allocated days of annual leave (from 22 to 35 days) and tasks and obligations appointed by the head teacher.

SPAIN

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year ^(1, 2)		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Between 6 and 13 September 2011	Between 6 and 15 September 2011
End of students' school year	Between 20 and 25 June 2012	Between 19 and 29 June ⁽³⁾ 2012
Autumn holidays	–	–
Christmas/New Year	At least 2 weeks between 22 December 2011 and 9 January 2012	At least 2 weeks between 22 December 2011 and 9 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	Between 3 and 6 days (depending on the Autonomous Community) ⁽⁴⁾	Between 3 and 6 (depending on the Autonomous Community) ⁽⁴⁾
Spring/Easter	About 10 days between 2 and 9 April or 5 and 15 April 2012	About 10 days between 2 and 9 April or 5 and 15 April 2012
Third term	–	–
Summer	11 weeks between late June and mid September	11/12 weeks between late June and mid September
Public/religious holidays	12 public holidays (some of them common throughout the whole country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities).	12 public holidays (some of them common throughout the whole country and some specific of the different Autonomous Communities).
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2012	30 June 2012

Additional notes:

⁽¹⁾ Dates vary according to the different Autonomous Communities, see the table below.

⁽²⁾ The total minimum number of school days is 175 in Primary, Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary Education in all Autonomous Communities.

⁽³⁾ In the last year of post-compulsory upper general secondary education, classes finish two or three weeks earlier than in the rest of stages. This time is used to prepare the university entrance examinations.

⁽⁴⁾ In the different Autonomous Communities, the education authorities allocate a certain number of days (between 3 and 6) for Carnival, bank holidays or other free days or grant freedom to schools to allocate these days along the whole school year at their convenience.

SPAIN (CONTINUED)

Specification of terms for the starting and the end of students' school year 2011/12 in the different Autonomous Communities

	Primary education		General secondary education ¹	
	Starting (2011)	End (2012)	Starting (2011)	End (2012)
Andalucía	12 September	22 June	15 September	22 June
Aragón	7 September	21 June	9 September	21 June
Asturias	12 September	20 June	14 September	22 June
Baleares	12 September	22 June	14 September	26 June
Canarias	7 September	22 June	13 September	22 June
Cantabria	12 September	22 June	12 September	22 June
Castilla y León	9 September	22 June	15 September	22 June
Castilla-La Mancha	12 September	21 June	15 September	26 June
Cataluña	7 September	22 June	7 September	22 June
Ceuta	12 September	22 June	12 September	22 June
Extremadura	13 September	22 June	13 September (Lower Secondary) 15 September (Upper Secondary)	22 June
Galicia	12 September	22 June	16 September	22 June
La Rioja	8 September	25 June	12 September	25 June
Madrid	12 September	26 June	14 September	26 June
Melilla	12 September	22 June	12 September (Lower Secondary) 13 September (Upper Secondary)	22 June
Murcia	9 September	22 June	15 September	29 June
Navarra ⁽²⁾	Not before 7 September	No later 20 June	Not before 9 September	Not later 19 June
País Vasco ⁽²⁾	Not before 6 September	Not later 22 June	Not before 6 September	Not later 22 June
C. Valenciana	8 September	22 June	14 September	22 June

Additional notes:

⁽¹⁾ In the last year of post-compulsory upper general secondary education, classes finish two or three weeks earlier than in the rest of stages. This time is used to prepare the university entrance examinations.

⁽²⁾ In these Autonomous Communities schools are free to establish their own calendar taking into account the limit starting and ending dates established by the educational authorities.

Source: School calendars of the 17 Autonomous Communities and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

SWEDEN

Organisation of school time in compulsory education (<i>grundskola</i>) and in general upper secondary education (<i>gymnasieskola</i>) 2011/12 school year		
	Single structure compulsory education (<i>grundskola</i>)	General upper secondary education (<i>gymnasieskola</i>)
Starting date of students' school year 2011	Late in August	Late in August
End of students' school year 2012	Middle of June	Middle of June
According to the Compulsory School Ordinance and the Upper secondary School Ordinance a school year consists of at least 178 school days and at least 17 holidays – the exact dates vary on regional and municipality level.		
Autumn holidays 2011	31 October – 4 November 2011	31 October – 4 November 2011
Christmas/New Year 2011/2012	Start between 19 – 22 December 2011 End between 2 – 13 January 2012	Start between 19 – 22 December 2011 End between 2 – 13 January 2012
Winter/Carnival 2012	One week between 13 February – 9 March 2012	One week between 13 February – 9 March 2012
Spring/Easter 2012	One week between 2 – 13 April 2012	One week between 2 – 13 April 2012
Summer 2012	About 10 weeks	About 10 weeks
Public/religious holidays	Public holidays outside school holidays are: 6 January 2012 (Epiphany) 6 April 2012 (Good Friday) 9 April 2012 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2012 (Labour Day) 17 May 2012 (Ascension Day) 6 June 2012 (the National Day) (if these do not fall on a Saturday and Sunday)	Public holidays outside school holidays are: 6 January 2012 (Epiphany) 6 April 2012 (Good Friday) 9 April 2012 (Easter Monday) 1 May 2012 (Labour Day) 17 May 2012 (Ascension Day) 6 June 2012 (the National Day) (if these do not fall on a Saturday and Sunday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Middle of August	Middle of August
End of teachers' school year	Middle of June	Middle of June

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

We have a single structure compulsory school, 9 years, with no differences between stages. Starting and finishing dates vary on regional and municipality levels, dates here are indicative.

Teachers: Teachers usually start their work earlier for planning etc. CPD is the responsibility of the employer and it can take place when the pupils are in school or not.

SWITZERLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Staggered between 8 August and 29 August 2011	Staggered between 8 August and 29 August 2011
End of students' school year	Staggered between 15 June and 20 July 2012	Staggered between 15 June and 20 July 2012
Autumn holidays	Between 1 and 3 weeks Staggered between 24 September and 6 November 2011	Between 1 and 3 weeks Staggered between 24 September and 6 November 2011
Christmas/New Year	Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 22 December 2011 and 8 January 2012	Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 22 December 2011 and 8 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 28 January and 4 March 2012	Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 28 January and 4 March 2012
Spring/Easter	Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 5 April and 20 May 2012	Between 1 and 2 weeks Staggered between 5 April and 20 May 2012
Third term	–	–
Summer	Between 5 and 10 weeks Staggered between 16 June and 26 August 2012	Between 5 and 10 weeks Staggered between 16 June and 2 September 2012
Public/religious holidays	1 August 2011 25 December 2011 1 January 2012 17 May 2012	1 August 2011 25 December 2011 1 January 2012 17 May 2012
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 August 2011	1 August 2011
End of teachers' school year	31 July 2012	31 July 2012

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

According to Switzerland's federal structure, the starting date / end of students' school year (for details see table I) and school holidays vary between cantons, in some cantons even between municipalities (for details see table II).

With a few exceptions the teachers' official school year starts August 1st and ends on 31 July. However, it is at the school's discretion to decide whether teachers are expected to start or end later (in order to attend meetings, to prepare for teaching, etc.).

The only national holiday is August 1st (National Day). All other public and religious holidays are fixed by the cantons. New Year's Day, Ascension and Christmas Day are the only holidays all cantons have in common. In most cantons Good Friday, Easter Monday, Whit Monday and Boxing Day are also official holidays.

SWITZERLAND (CONTINUED)

TABLE I: Specification for starting/end of students' school year and summer holidays

Canton	Beginning of students' school year 2011/12	End of students' school year 2011/12	Summer holidays 2012
Aargau	8 August 2011	20 July 2012	21 July - 12 August
Appenzell Innerrhoden*	15 August 2011	29 June 2012	30 June – 12 August
Appenzell Ausserrhoden	15 August 2011	6 July 2012	7 July – 12 August
Bern*	15 August 2011	6 July 2012	7 July – 12 August
Basel-Landschaft	15 August 2011	29 June 2012	30 June – 12 August
Basel-Stadt	15 August 2011	29 June 2012	30 June – 12 August
Fribourg*	25 August 2011	6 July 2012	7 July – 22 August
Geneva	29 August 2011	29 June 2012	30 June – 26 August
Glarus	15 August 2011	29 June 2012	30 June – 12 August
Graubünden*	22 August 2011	29 June 2012	30 June – 19 August
Jura	22 August 2011	6 July 2012	7 July – 19 August
Lucerne	22 August 2011	6 July 2012	7 July – 19 August
Neuchâtel	15 August 2011	6 July 2012	7 July – 19 August
Nidwalden*	22 August 2011	6 July 2012	7 July – 19 August
Obwalden*	22 August 2011	6 July 2012	7 July – 19 August
St. Gallen	15 August 2011	6 July 2012	7 July – 12 August
Schaffhausen	15 August 2011	6 July 2012	7 July – 12 August
Solothurn	15 August 2011	6 July 2012	7 July – 12 August
Schwyz*	15 August 2011	6 July 2012	7 July – 12 August
Thurgau	15 August 2011	6 July 2012	7 July – 12 August
Ticino	29 August 2011	15 June 2012	16 June – end of holidays not defined
Uri*	15 August 2011	29 June 2012	30 June – 19 August
Vaud	22 August 2011	6 July 2012	7 July – 26 August
Valais*	22 August 2011	29 June 2012	30 June – 19 August
Zug	22 August 2011	6 July 2012	7 July – 19 August
Zurich*	22 August 2011	13 July 2012	14 July – 19 August

* With variation between regions/municipalities

SWITZERLAND (CONTINUED)

TABLE II: Specification of shorter holiday periods

Canton	Autumn 2011	Christmas / New Year 2011/12	Winter 2012	Spring / Easter 2012
Aargau*	1 – 16 Oct.	24 Dec. – 8 Jan.	variable	10 – 22 April
Appenzell Innerrhoden*	8 – 23 Oct.	24 Dec. – 2 Jan.	18 – 26 Feb.	7 – 22 April
Appenzell Ausserrhoden	8 – 23 Oct.	24 Dec. – 2 Jan.	variable	7 – 22 April
Bern*	24 Sept. – 16 Oct.	24 Dec. – 8 Jan.	variable	6 – 22 April
Basel-Landschaft*	1 – 16 Oct.	24 Dec. – 2 Jan.	18 Feb. – 4 March	5 – 15 April
Basel-Stadt	1 – 16 Oct.	24 Dec. – 1 Jan.	18 Feb. – 4 March	5 – 15 April
Fribourg*	15 Oct. – 2 Nov.	24 Dec. – 8 Jan.	18 – 26 Feb.	6 – 22 April
Geneva	22 – 30 Oct.	24 Dec. – 8 Jan.	11 – 19 Feb.	5 – 15 April
Glarus	8 – 23 Oct.	24 Dec. – 8 Jan.	28 Jan. – 5 Feb.	6 – 22 April
Graubünden*	8 – 23 Oct.	24 Dec. – 8 Jan.	25 Feb. – 4 March	14 – 29 April
Jura	8 – 23 Oct.	24 Dec. – 8 Jan.	11 – 19 Feb.	5 – 22 April
Lucerne	1 – 16 Oct.	24 Dec. – 8 Jan.	11 – 26 Feb.	6 – 22 April
Neuchâtel	1 – 16 Oct.	24 Dec. – 8 Jan.	25 Feb. – 4 March	6 – 22 April
Nidwalden*	1 – 16 Oct.	24 Dec. – 2 Jan.	11 – 26 Feb.	6 – 22 April
Obwalden*	1 – 16 Oct.	24 Dec. – 4 Jan.	11 – 26 Feb.	6 – 22 April
St. Gallen	1 – 23 Oct.	24 Dec. – 2 Jan.	variable	7 – 22 April
Schaffhausen	1 – 23 Oct.	24 Dec. – 2 Jan.	28 Jan. – 12 Feb.	14 April – 1 May
Solothurn*	1 – 23 Oct.	24 Dec. – 8 Jan.	4 – 19 Feb.	6 – 22 April
Schwyz*	1 – 16 Oct.	24 Dec. – 8 Jan.	25 Feb. – 4 March	28 April – 13 May
Thurgau	8 – 23 Oct.	24 Dec. – 2 Jan.	28 Jan. – 5 Feb.	6 – 22 April
Ticino	29 Oct. – 6 Nov.	24 Dec. – 8 Jan.	18 – 26 Feb.	6 – 15 April
Uri*	1 – 16 Oct.	24 Dec. – 8 Jan.	11 – 22 Feb.	6 – 22 April
Vaud	15 – 30 Oct.	23 Dec. – 8 Jan.	24 Feb. – 4 March	5 – 22 April
Valais*	8 – 23 Oct.	24 Dec. – 8 Jan.	18 – 26 Feb.	5 – 20 May
Zug	8 – 23 Oct.	22 Dec. – 4 Jan.	4 – 19 Feb.	14 – 29 April
Zurich*	8 – 23 Oct.	26 Dec. – 8 Jan.	11 – 26 Feb.	21 April – 6 May

* With variation between regions/municipalities

TURKEY

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year

	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	19 September 2011	19 September 2011
End of students' school year	15 June 2012	15 June 2012
Christmas/New Year	–	–
Winter/Carnival	2 weeks 27 January – 13 February 2012	2 weeks 27 January – 13 February 2012
Spring/Easter	–	–
Third term	–	–
Summer	13 weeks 15 June – 17 September 2012	13 weeks 15 June – 12 September 2012
Public/religious holidays	Half day 28 October 2011 (public holiday) 3 days 7-9 November 2011 (religious holiday) 1 day 23 April 2012 (public holiday)	Half day 28 October 2011 (public holiday) 3 days 7-9 November 2011 (religious holiday) 1 day 23 April 2012 (public holiday)
Starting date of teachers' school year	Beginning September	Beginning September
End of teachers' school year	Beginning July	Beginning July

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

For primary and general secondary education, a school year must be not less than 180 days. A school year runs 9 months from September to June.

A school year is divided into two parts: at the end of a semester, there is a two-week 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.

UNITED KINGDOM – ENGLAND AND WALES

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	The first week of September 2011	The first week of September 2011
End of students' school year	Between 20 and 23 July 2012	Between 20 and 23 July 2012
Autumn holidays	1 week 24 – 28 October 2011	1 week 24 – 28 October 2011
Christmas/New Year	2 weeks Between 19 December 2011 and the first week of January 2012	2 weeks Between 19 December 2011 and the first week of January 2012
Winter/Carnival	1 week 13 – 17 February 2012	1 week 13 – 17 February 2012
Spring/Easter	2 weeks 2 – 13 April 2012	2 weeks 2 – 13 April 2012
Third term	1 week 1 – 8 June 2012	1 week 1 – 8 June 2012
Summer	6 weeks Between 23 July and the first week of September 2012	6 weeks Between 23 July and the first week of September 2012
Public/religious holidays	7 May 2012 – early May Bank Holiday	7 May 2012 – early May Bank Holiday
Starting date of teachers' school year	The first week of September 2011	The first week of September 2011
End of teachers' school year	Between 20 and 23 July 2012	Between 20 and 23 July 2012

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes: Schools must be open to pupils for at least 380 half day sessions each school year. Teachers are required to be available for five additional days, ie for 195 days in total. The actual dates on which schools operate are not laid down centrally; they are set, depending on the legal category of the school, by the local authority (LA) or school governing body.

The table shows the most common patterns for term dates and holidays. Traditionally, the school year is divided into three terms, each of which is divided into two half terms separated by a half term holiday. The dates of school holidays are normally planned to take into account and cover most national public holidays including Easter.

There is currently movement towards the adoption of a standard school year, consistent year on year. The standard school year is divided into six blocks of roughly even length which are more evenly distributed throughout the year: two, approximately seven-week blocks before Christmas, followed by four approximately six-week blocks afterwards. The spring break is taken around the first two weeks of April irrespective of the timing of Easter. A 2008 Local Government Association (LGA) survey found that, since its introduction in 2004/05, 79 local authorities out of 125 had adopted the standard school year fully or in part.

UNITED KINGDOM – NORTHERN IRELAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of students' school year	30 June 2012	30 June 2012
Autumn holidays	2 days 31 October – 1 November 2011	2 days 31 October – 1 November 2011
Christmas/New Year	1.5 weeks 22 December 2011 – 2 January 2012	1.5 weeks 22 December 2011 – 2 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	2 days 16 – 17 February 2012	2 days 16 – 17 February 2012
Spring/Easter	1.5 weeks 5 – 13 April 2012	1.5 weeks 5 – 13 April 2012
Third term	–	–
Summer	9 weeks Between 1 July and the first week of September 2012	9 weeks Between 1 July and the first week of September 2012
Public/religious holidays	19 March 2012 – St Patrick's Day (not all schools) 7 May 2012 – early May Bank Holiday 4 – 5 June 2012 – Spring Bank Holiday and Queen's Diamond Jubilee	19 March 2012 – St Patrick's Day (not all schools) 7 May 2012 – early May Bank Holiday 4 – 5 June 2012 – Spring Bank Holiday and Queen's Diamond Jubilee
Starting date of teachers' school year	1 September 2011	1 September 2011
End of teachers' school year	30 June 2012	30 June 2012

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

The table shows the dates on which schools are closed to pupils. Teachers must attend on 5 of these dates for training and development purposes.

Schools are required to be in operation for 200 days a year; however, schools have the discretion to close for up to 5 optional days. Optional days are intended to cover closings throughout the year in special circumstances, for example the death of a person connected with the school, the need to move premises, the start of building work at the school or church holy days. These optional days are therefore likely to differ from school to school.

UNITED KINGDOM – SCOTLAND

Organisation of school time in primary and general secondary education 2011/12 school year		
	Primary education	General secondary education
Starting date of students' school year	Mid-August 2011	Mid-August 2011
End of students' school year	End June/early July 2012	End June/early July 2012
Autumn holidays	Many schools will take from 1 to 2 weeks in mid-October 2011 but others will take from 1 to 3 days spread out between 5 September and 2 December 2011	Many schools will take from 1 to 2 weeks in mid-October 2011 but others will take from 1 to 3 days spread out between 5 September and 2 December 2011
Christmas/New Year	2 to 2.5 weeks between 16 December 2011 to 9 January 2012	Around 2 weeks between 16 December 2011 to 9 January 2012
Winter/Carnival	From 1 day to 1 week between 10 and 20 February 2012	From 1 day to 1 week between 10 and 20 February 2012
Spring/Easter	About 2 weeks between 23 March and 16 April 2012	About 2 weeks between 23 March and 16 April 2012
Summer mid-term holidays	Generally schools will take at least 1 day on 7 May 2012 but some schools will also take up to 3 days between 30 April and 31 May 2012	Generally schools will take at least 1 day on 7 May 2011 but some schools will also take up to 3 days between 30 April and 31 May 2012
Summer	End June/early July – mid-August 2012	End June – mid-August 2012
Public/religious holidays	Up to 3 days	Up to 3 days
Starting date of teachers' school year	Mid-August 2011	Mid-August 2011
End of teachers' school year	End June/early July 2012	End June/early July 2012

Source: Eurydice

Additional notes:

In Scotland, pupils attend school for 190 days a year. The teachers' school year is longer by 5 in-service days (195 days).

As school holidays (and in-service days) are not fixed nationally, but by each of the 32 local education authorities, term dates vary from one authority to another. There are no differences between primary and secondary schools.