

# 3 From the school day to the school year

## The school day

Classes are usually taught on each of the **five school days** of the week, i.e. from Monday to Friday. The school day is organized with reference to the **timetable**.

Here is an example of a timetable for Year 5 at a *Gymnasium* (coloured shading indicates main subjects; school whose timetable includes double periods).

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:50 – 8:35	Art	English	Mathematics	Physics	Physical education
8:35 – 9:20					
9:45 – 10:30	Mathematics	Religious education	Biology	German	English
10:30 – 11:15					
11:40 – 12:25	German	Music	History	Geography	'Class business' session
12:25 – 13:10					
13:40 – 14:25		Remedial classes	Remedial classes		
14:25 – 15:10					

The timetable indicates:

- › when lessons begin;
- › when lessons end;
- › which subjects are taught and in which order.

Pupils can plan their day around the timetable:

- › when to set off for school;
- › what they need to take to school;
- › when they will be back home; and
- › what they need to prepare for the next day.

Because the timetable is so important, it should be visibly on display where both pupils and their parents can see it.

### Full-day programme

As well as the usual school subjects, in most cases the school day includes a full-day programme that pupils can take part in.

The range of **school clubs** (*Arbeitsgemeinschaften, AGs*) at a typical school in Lower Saxony is as follows:

### Sports clubs:

badminton, movement activities, indoor football, table tennis

### Science and technology clubs:

'Exploring Science' clubs, nature club, pupils do research, computer club

### Music clubs:

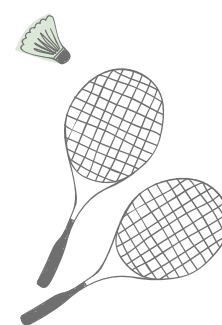
choir, band

### Language and travel clubs:

French club, Chinese club ('China – Journey to a Fascinating Country')

### Other clubs:

film club, school newspaper club, chess club, school first-aid service



At many schools, involvement in clubs is voluntary. However, in signing up for a club, pupils are making a commitment to go to every session.



### The school year

Lessons begin after the summer holidays and end before the following summer holidays. The school year is divided into two terms. At the end of each term a report (Z) (Zeugnis)

is issued on how the pupil has done over the term or the entire school year. The school year is interrupted by holidays which are intended as periods of rest and refreshment.

School year 2019/2020 (as an example)											
August	Summer holidays until 14.08.2019										
September											
October	Autumn holidays: 04. – 18.10.										
November											
December										Christmas holidays: 23.12.- 06.01.	
January	Z										
February	03.–04.										
March											
April	Easter holidays: 30.03 – 14.04.										
May										14.	25.
June										Z	
July	Summer holidays: 16.07. – 26.08.2020										

### Special events in the school year

Special events are held during every school year. Some of them involve only the pupils; these include individual-class outings in extracurricular learning settings such as the municipal library, museums or the theatre. In some years, longer class trips are held on which the class spend several days (involving overnight stays) at a non-school location.

In the school itself there are a number of special occasions and festivities for the children, including sports day, school parties and Christmas celebrations. In hosting these events, the school always needs a lot of help and support from the parents.

There are also events for parents. These include class-based parents' evenings (Elternabende) and (at least once a year) parent-teacher conferences (Elternsprechtage) at which parents and teaching staff discuss the children's learning progress. It is important for their children's development that parents attend the parents' evenings and parent-teacher conferences.

It is a good idea to have a year calendar with school and holiday dates on the kitchen wall: that way everyone knows what's going on and when.

