



Early Years Funding Key Dates

Term dates: 2nd September 26 - 18th December 26

Stretched entitlement dates: 1st September 26 – 31st December 26

Autumn Term 2026 - 14 weeks (for payment)

Date	Process
Thursday 30/07/2026	Wizard available for autumn 26 estimated figures for an advanced funding claim.
Tuesday 01/09/2026	Headcount Return available in School360 (PVI's ONLY)
Sunday 06/09/2026	DEADLINE to submit estimated figures via Wizard.
Friday 11/09/2026	Payment (all providers) Advanced Termly Payment/1st Monthly Instalment Based on estimated figures
Thursday 01/10/2026	HEADCOUNT DAY
Friday 02/10/2026	Submit ALL providers must complete headcount by this date via (Schools360, Census or SIMS). PVI ONLY deadline to complete Questions module in Wizard
Friday 16/10/2026	Payment (providers who have chosen monthly payments only) 2nd monthly instalment based on estimated figures
Wednesday 04/11/2026 - Wed 11/11/26	Request second headcount (disadvantaged 2YO ONLY) To claim funding for disadvantaged 2-year-old children who took up their entitlement or increased their hours after first headcount (email sophie.downing@northumberland.gov.uk to request a second headcount)
Friday 04/12/2026	Submit via Schools360 Providers must submit 2nd headcount for disadvantaged 2YOs only (children who took up entitlement after first headcount)
Friday 13/11/2026	Payment (providers who have chosen monthly payments only) 3rd monthly instalment based on estimated figures
Friday 11/12/2026	Payment (all providers) Final termly payment/4th monthly instalment based on full headcount and 2nd headcount
Friday TBC	Systems Available for spring term 27 funding claim

Where providers miss funding deadlines the LA cannot guarantee payment. However, if this



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is corrected within a given period (1 week of set deadline), it may still be possible to process claims and access the funding. Due to the extra administration involved with late submissions we require providers to pay towards the associated costs as set out in section 6.9 of the Local Code of Practice for the delivery funded entitlement, below:

6.9 If the Provider fails to submit the headcount forms by the deadline specified the Authority cannot guarantee payment and an administration charge of £50 may be applied. Any headcount forms received for previous terms or claims made for payments from previous financial years (1st April – 31st March) will not be considered.