

Holiday planner for co-parents: Christmas and winter break

For two homes. Fill it in together, or each fill one in and compare.

Parent A

Parent B

1. Day by day over the winter break

Write A or B for where the children sleep each night. Use the handover column for the time, the place and who drives.

DATE	NIGHT WITH	HANDOVER (TIME, PLACE, WHO DRIVES)	PLANS AND NOTES
Fri, Dec 18			
Sat, Dec 19			
Sun, Dec 20			
Mon, Dec 21			
Tue, Dec 22			
Wed, Dec 23			
Thu, Dec 24 Christmas Eve			
Fri, Dec 25 Christmas Day			
Sat, Dec 26			
Sun, Dec 27			
Mon, Dec 28			
Tue, Dec 29			
Wed, Dec 30			
Thu, Dec 31 New Year's Eve			
Fri, Jan 1 New Year's Day			
Sat, Jan 2			
Sun, Jan 3			

Winter break dates vary by school district. These rows run from Friday, December 18, 2026 to Sunday, January 3, 2027. Cross out or add days to match your calendar.

2. Pick a way to share Christmas

These are the usual ways families split it. Tick the one you’re trying this year. If a plan or court order already covers Christmas, follow that.

☐ **Alternate years**

The children spend the whole of Christmas with one parent this year and with the other next year.

☐ **Split the day**

Christmas Eve and the morning with one parent, then Christmas afternoon and evening with the other. Works best when the two homes are close.

☐ **Split the break in half**

One parent has the first half of winter break, including Christmas; the other has the second half, including New Year. Swap each year.

☐ **Two Christmases**

Each home keeps its own day, for example 25th in one and a second Christmas on another date, the same every year.

Who has what, year by year

Writing down next year now saves the same conversation next autumn.

DAY	2026	2027
Christmas Eve		
Christmas Day		
New Year’s Eve		
New Year’s Day		
Other days:		

Agree it early. The sooner it’s settled, the sooner the children know where they’ll be, and the sooner travel and time off work can be booked.

Parent A, date

Parent B, date

Signing this is just a way to show you both agreed. It isn’t a legal agreement.

3. Things to agree before December

Tick each one off once you've both agreed it, and jot down what you decided.

☐ **Gifts**

Who buys what, any gifts from both of you, and where big gifts live afterwards.

☐ **Budget**

Rough budget each, so gifts feel even.

☐ **Travel and handovers**

Times, places and who drives, with extra time for traffic and weather.

☐ **Grandparents and other family**

Who they'll see in each home, and on which days.

☐ **School concert, holiday party or religious services**

Dates, and whether you'll both go.

☐ **Calls on the day**

A set time for the children to call or video call the other parent.

☐ **Food and bedtimes**

Anything you both want kept the same across the two homes.

☐ **Telling the children**

When you'll tell them the plan, and whether you'll tell them together.

☐ **If plans change**

What happens if someone is ill or travel is cancelled.

☐ **Time on your own**

If you'll be without the children on the day, what you'll do and who you'll see.

Notes
