

If you spent August indoors, watching sport on the telly, treat your family to some sunshine this half-term, says **Stephen Bleach**

Cast your mind back to the summer. Difficult, isn't it? Not surprising — it was 13 months ago. This year's wasn't worthy of the name, and the kids haven't had a good dose of sunshine for too long. They deserve a blast of heat for half-term. It falls late this year, so you can write off most of the Mediterranean, where you'd need jumpers on the beach, and possibly raincoats. So where can you take them that will be reliably warm and sunny, and what will it cost? Here are your best bets.

✦ Unless stated, holidays fall between October 27 and November 4. Prices are for a family of four, for a week, and include flights from London. Ask the operator about regional departure options

MIDDLE EAST AND MOROCCO

The weather: perfect — high 20s in Sharm, low 30s in Dubai, and dry as

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CARIBBEAN

The weather: it's hurricane season, but don't let that put you off — the chances of getting hit by a big one are tiny. You're more likely to see plenty of sun, a good few showers and temperatures of about 30C.

The holidays: for economy, bypass the islands and go the extra mile to the coast of **Mexico**, where Funway

Holidays (0844 557 0770, funwayholidays.co.uk) has the Park Royal Cancun — something of a behemoth, but with good pools and a fabulous beach — from £2,849, all-inclusive. The down side? That's a week from November 1, so you'll have to scrape more time off school.

If the kids are at private school, they probably get a fortnight off from the 20th, so you can easily fit in the pretty, boutiquey **Mount Cinnamon**, on **Grenada**. It caters well for families, with children's menus, lots of activities and a Montessori kids' camp. Flying out on October 24, prices start at £4,994, room-only, with Tropic Breeze (01752 880880, tropicbreeze.co.uk).

On **Antigua**, the Verandah Resort is bigger, livelier and purpose-built for families, with an excellent kids' club, lots of pools and good food. It's decently priced, too — from £5,039, all-inclusive, with British Airways (0844 493 0758, ba.com/antigua).

Windjammer Landing, on **St Lucia**, is good for water-loving older kids, with waterskiing, wakeboarding, sailing, doughnut rides and more. A week starting at £3,995 with Caribtours (020 7751 0660, caribtours.co.uk) looks

