



**Hinde House**

3 - 16 SCHOOL

Creating excellence together

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## How to beat the Summer Slump!

For children, the summer holidays are a welcome opportunity to take a deep breath and relax after a busy school year. But when children do return to school after the holidays, it's common for teachers to talk about the 'summer slump'. This happens when, after six weeks away from school, children have forgotten some of the key things they have learnt over the last year.

If we can keep our children's learning ticking over then they'll start back in September both refreshed and relaxed and ready to pick up their schoolwork just where they left off – a huge advantage. Here are some practical ways you can help your child to stay on top of their learning...

### Writing

#### Write little and often

If we want to help keep children's skills fresh, writing a short piece regularly is the best way to do this. Try doing a mini project that you can build up over the course of the holiday. E.g.

- A story about anything that they find interesting. It could be an adventure in a jungle, a mystery in a haunted house or a science fiction adventure set in outer space! By September, the chapters will have built into a book of which they can be really proud.
- An A-to-Z. It could be based on anything your child is interested in – animals, space, dinosaurs, fairies, even their favourite TV programme. A page for each letter of the alphabet gives you 26 short pieces of writing spread over the summer that build into one big project.

#### Start with an existing story

For lots of children, thinking of an initial idea can be difficult. Starting with a familiar story can help. They could:

- Produce their own version of a book they love- they can change as much or as little as they want!
- Write the book of the film (or TV programme). If children have watched something they've really enjoyed, they could try and tell the same story in writing.

#### Change the format

While some children naturally love writing, for others it can be a bit of a chore. Anything we can do to make it exciting and help children to want to write is going to make for a far more enjoyable for all of you. A classic holiday writing activity like keeping a diary could be given a twist by:

- Writing it on the computer and posting it online as a blog or emailing it to relatives.
- Instead of a book, keeping a special holiday box full of pictures, tickets and anything children find, along with loose diary entries or scribbled down memories on napkins and torn-out pages of notebooks.
- Choosing one event – a holiday, a trip to a fair, theme park or a stay with grandparents – and writing the story of it as a graphic novel or comic strip.

**Any children who bring a piece of writing into school in September will receive a small prize.**

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## Reading

### Ring-fence the time to read

The summer holidays are bound to be busy, but 10–15 minutes of reading with your child every day is one of the best ways you can help them with their learning. By all means ask questions and discuss tricky vocabulary, but don't be afraid to lose yourselves in a good story too. Helping your child to enjoy reading is an important goal in itself.

### Take turns to read

Whatever age and level of reading fluency your child is at, they'll benefit from both reading aloud to you and hearing you read aloud to them. Reading aloud to children is a great way of building their understanding, showing them what expressive reading sounds like and letting them enjoy a story.

### Think about the range of books

It doesn't matter what you read- leaflets, comics, menus etc are all good for practicing those reading skills! If you are a member of the library, why not get involved with the Summer Reading Challenge? Find out more at <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

**And finally, don't forget to log on to your E-Bug Club Account for loads of reading fun!**



## Maths

If we want children to develop a positive attitude to maths, the focus of any work at home needs to be on activities that are enjoyable as well as educational. The primary school curriculum places great emphasis on children being able to add, subtract, multiply and divide with confidence so this might be a good place to focus. To make this interesting, you could try:

- Putting children in charge of planning and budgeting for something - a meal or picnic, a day trip out, even the family holiday if you're going away. There'll be plenty of opportunities to practise their maths skills in a real life context.
- Undertaking a family learning challenge. Set the whole family the challenge of learning one new thing over the holidays. It might be a particular [times table](#), the [number bonds](#) to ten or one hundred, or learning to tell the time. Everyone in the family has something to learn and their job is to both learn their own and help everyone else out with their challenge.

**And for children in Y3-Y6, you will have a log on for TT Rock Stars which will help keep those times tables skills sharp!**