Dear Parents and Carers,

SUMMER IDEAS

Well, as we come to the end of the most diverse year many of us will see in teaching and parenting, we ask ourselves what can we do to help our children as they prepare to take the next steps in their education. We know that many of you have been supporting your children by completing the packs provided in school, using other websites such as BBC Bitesize and Oak National Academy and relying on your skills to make this period of time as successful as possible. Thank you.

To continue to support our young people further, we have put together some ideas and websites that we think they will enjoy over the summer too.

We have also created a reading chart that they can complete to show all the fantastic books, magazines, websites and stories that they have read and shared over the summer months.

**Twinkl**

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/home-learning-hub>

Twinkl is a lovely site with lots of craft ideas, booklets and games which the children enjoy playing at home and school and this will continue to offer ideas as we move into the holiday period. There are lots of activities to think about what the children have achieved and what they would like to achieve on there for you to use with your children either as a talking aid, or as a written activity. There are also some great colouring ideas and other themes to have a go at.

**Library Challenge**

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/about-the-challenge>

Although the library is closed to the children at the moment, the summer reading challenge is going ahead on line and the children and yourselves can take part in reading as many books as possible.

Also ebooks on <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/> are available for your child to enjoy.

**Maths**

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?Subject=16>

There are lots of great maths games sites available for the children – BBC Bitesize has been particularly popular. But as the weather warms up, a great way to support some of our children is to consider wider maths. Taking opportunities to have measuring jugs and water in the garden…sand…shapes with playdoh for our younger children and for our older children weighing and measuring in the kitchen, considering money especially change and time is important too.

Language is particularly important in maths. Which is greater? Which is the least? Which is most popular? Don’t think of it always as a maths session – maths in the wider world is our most essential tool – we all chose a Twister lolly – so which is the most popular? We are going to visit our gran. She lives 50 miles away. I’ve travelled half way – how much further do I need to travel? One or two questions weekly which show children that maths is an important part of our everyday lives is enough to keep their minds maths active.

**Writing**

Writing can be the trickiest challenge over the summer months. Lots of children will not want to write as they see it as work.

So perhaps a diary – once a week of some of the exciting things that you have done. Take pictures and print them – or draw one to show our experiences. Writing postcards to loved ones is another fantastic opportunity to write. If your child wants a particular toy or outing – can they write a short paragraph to persuade you?

Sometimes writing isn’t necessary – but the discussion about what they could write is more valuable. Think of a word a week – make it the family word – how many times can it get in a sentence – challenge yourself – there was a **cacophony** of sound in the living room today – were we all having fun?

**Literacy Shed**

<https://www.literacyshedplus.com/en-gb/browse/age-7-9/7---9-book-studies>

The Literacy Shed is a great place to start if you want to write but need some inspiration as it has small clips and videos to inspire writing.

Don’t forget, your child and family is living through one of the most complex times in many people’s living memory – could they be a reporter – telling the stories of lockdown from their view? What have they enjoyed? Is their perception of this time the same/different from yours or their siblings? Talking and writing about what they feel can also be a great way for them to show their emotions and for us all to take time to consider each other.

Also, remember we are all in this together. We cannot wait to see you all again in August and start the next chapter of their education. We know that many things will have changed and that each child will have a different experience but that we will all be back to school together again soon.