

Wednesday 9 July 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Summer Activities

As we approach the end of the academic year, we would like to take a moment to thank you for your continued support and involvement in your son's learning. We are incredibly proud of the progress the boys have made, and we know that this is in no small part due to the strong partnership between home and school.

I am sure many of you are already aware of the phenomenon known as the 'Summer Slide' - the tendency for pupils to lose some of the academic gains they have made during the school year over the long summer break. While a well-deserved rest is important, research has shown that without regular practice, some children may return to school in September with a noticeable decline in reading, writing, or maths skills.

The good news is that there are simple, enjoyable activities you can do with your child during the holidays to help keep their learning fresh and support their return to school.

Here are a few ideas you may wish to try:

- **Daily Reading:** Please encourage your son to read for pleasure for 15-20 minutes every day. The aim is to create the habit of reading. This could include storybooks, comics, non-fiction texts, or even recipes. One of the best ways to encourage this is by reading to them as well. Your son may also wish to take part in the summer reading challenges outlined in the parent end-of-term newsletter.
- **Practical Maths:** Incorporate maths into everyday life - this might include measuring ingredients when baking, calculating change at the shop, telling the time, or estimating distances on a journey. Reinforcing multiplication and division facts through songs or as a game at home is also extremely important as a foundation for all topics in maths.
- **Writing for Fun:** The summer holidays are a wonderful time to nurture your son's creativity and keep the joy of writing alive. Whether it is keeping a holiday journal, writing short stories, poems, or even creating their own comic books, encouraging your son to write for pleasure can be both fun and rewarding. It helps maintain their writing stamina, sparks imagination, and allows them to express their thoughts and experiences in new and exciting ways.
- **Educational Games:** Board games such as Scrabble, Boggle, Articulate and Monopoly help reinforce spelling, vocabulary, and numeracy in a fun and relaxed way.



- **Nature and Science:** Going on nature walks, growing plants, or conducting simple science experiments at home can spark curiosity and provide rich learning opportunities. If you have the time, perhaps plan a visit to the Science Museum in London which has several incredible exhibits this summer. Another option for the holidays would be to see the Sir David Attenborough immersive experience, which recently opened in June at the Natural History Museum in London.

For more formal activities, individual year groups will be sending home some packs for boys over the summer. Please note that these are entirely optional, and teachers will not be collecting work or reviewing results with the boys after the holidays.

We hope these suggestions will be helpful and enjoyable for you and your son. A small amount of regular learning over the summer can make a big difference in easing the transition back to school and maintaining the progress they have made.

Wishing you a restful and happy summer holiday.

Yours faithfully,

Aidan Taylor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Aidan Taylor', written in a cursive style.

Deputy Head (Academic)