



Literacy News

The summer holidays are fast approaching and no doubt many of you will be taking the opportunity to get 'away from it all'. In 'Literacy news' this term our focus is 'Days out in the Summer Holidays'. We have suggested various fun-time activities to relieve any feelings of boredom that may arise in the next 6 weeks. The aim of which is to develop your child's literacy skills.

That long journey...



Keeping your child amused on a long journey is not an easy task. Here are some ideas for things to take and things to do to pass the time:

- * Crosswords and word searches are a good learning tool for developing reading skills.
- * Look at car registrations plates - can your child make up a word using the car's letters e.g. RBT - robot, rabbit..)
- * Younger children could look at the initial letter of a registration and think of other words beginning with the same letter or children could count how many cars they can see beginning with the same letter.
- * Look through picture or story books together; this will help 'tire' children out, especially in the car.
- * Start off a story - one person in the vehicle begins, and then the next person adds another part to the story.



- * The children could record their own story which they could play back in the car.
- * In order to help develop the children's listening and speaking skills you could play the game - *Guess Who I am?* Someone has to pick a famous person, or animal - the children have to ask questions in order to guess who it is. Or, you could play the game the other way round. The person who is 'it' is given an identity by the other players. They then have to ask questions to the rest of the team in order to find out who they are.

Away from home:

- * Keep a holiday diary or make up a scrapbook which you can label.
- * Make a poster inviting people to come over to the place you are visiting.
- * Create your own foreign menu using foods you may have tried on holiday.
- * Write a luggage label for your teddy with the destination of you hotel.
- * Write a letter to a fictitious friend in Ashford describing what it is like living in Spain, America, France, etc.
- * Write a list of all the things you need to take with you on holiday e.g. - different items of clothing, toiletries, etc.
- * Make a paper suitcase and draw the things you will take. Label them accordingly



- * Or, think about a book character and draw the things they might take with them on holiday e.g. - Elmer, Harry Potter.
- * Write a postcard home.
- * Use the letters of the place or country you are visiting to write an acrostic poem. For example:
S Is for sun that shines all day
P Is for paella that we eat in Spain
A Is for Andorra, where we're staying
I Is for the island Majorca
N Is for noisy children in the pool
- * Try and learn a few foreign words/phrases. Perhaps teach a new friend on holiday some English words.
- * Look at guide books about the place you are visiting. Create your own 'Children's Guidebook' detailing places of interest.
- * Buy a foreign newspaper - can you work out what any of the stories are about.

We have also created a list of literacy based activities that you can do to at home...

* Look at different pamphlets describing attractions in your area. Create your own leaflet describing a place you have been to visit e.g. London Zoo, The Rare Breeds Centre.



* Make a puppet theatre from a large cardboard box. The children could make their own finger or stick puppets. They could then hold their own Seaside or Airport puppet show.

* Collect pictures from travel brochures. Make your own poster or travel booklet.

* Encourage the children to take part in role play activities. They could pretend the back garden is a travel agency, beach, rainforest...

* Write an invitation to a friend inviting them to visit you in Ashford. Think about the format of the invitation - name, address, time, place, date, etc and decorate.

* Make a passport for your toy.

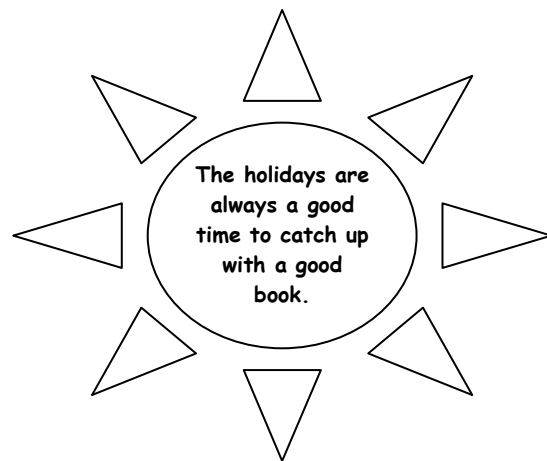
* Play 'literacy based' games - scrabble, charades, Stop the Bus, anagrams, how many words can you make using these letters etc...

* *Paper Bag Performance* - Give your child and their friends a bag with a variety of objects, such as a wooden spoon, a toy car etc. They have to make up a short play using all the props in the bag. The props may be used as they are in everyday life or they may be used imaginatively. They can then perform their play to an audience (mum, neighbour, gran etc)

Hopefully you will find the above activities useful. The summer break can be rather long for some children and it is important that they are given environments where they can continue to develop the literacy skills they have learnt at school.



We hope you all a lovely holiday wherever you may be.



The holidays are always a good time to catch up with a good book.

Mythical Maze: Summer Reading Challenge 2014

The Summer Reading Challenge, for children aged 4-11, inspires children to have fun reading in the long summer break. Children's reading can 'dip' during the summer holidays. The Reading Agency's annual Summer Reading Challenge, delivered by libraries, gets three quarters of a million children into libraries to maintain their reading skills and confidence.

Children can join at any Kent Library from 12 July to 13 September - it's FREE!



Mythical Maze invites children to discover more about myths and legends from all over the world. Children read 6 books of their choice and receive stickers, a medal and a certificate.

All year round, you can also visit the Summer Reading Challenge website which helps you to find new books to read, take part in competitions and play games.

<http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

If any parents have any ideas for future themes for literacy news, either things that parents can do to support their children's literacy at home or information about literacy in school that you would like, then please get in touch with Miss Talbot or Mrs Fisher.

This newsletter can also be viewed electronically on the school website. Follow the link from the Information for Parents tab on the left hand menu to the section called 'How can I help my child at home'.