

Help your child over the summer- year six children

- Educational research shows that children go backwards over the summer if they do no work. They start the new school year at a lower level than they finished the previous year.
- We suggest if parents do nothing more than the [‘The Basics’](#) during the rest of the year and don’t help with revision before exams then their children will benefit from doing some work over the summer holidays.
- If children have been through year three and have reached the summer holidays then we’d suggest the following as revision over the holiday period to ensure children stay as sharp as possible



Keep going with the basics:

- Continue to read every day.
- Continue to collect words in your personal words lists.
- Continue to do some regular (hopefully daily) times tables work.
- Continue to do some paired reading.



See [‘The Basics’](#) if you are not sure - Remember, for children of this age, **a very great improvement can be made over the summer by sticking with the basics and perhaps doing a little more** - try to do an hour of reading (in two sessions) every day, try to do more than two sessions of paired reading in a week. Whatever you can do with the basics will really help your child enter year four feeling confident.

In addition we’d suggest children do 20 minutes from the two books below on alternate days (this should be enough time to do at least two pages) - one day of maths, one day of English. Inevitably there will be days when it isn’t possible, but embarking on the holidays with the idea of doing 20 minutes a day (which is all it will take) is a good idea.



- [Scholastic English National Curriculum year 6](#)
- [Scholastic Maths National Curriculum year 6](#)

Or, if you have done these books then use the alternatives below:

- [Collins targeted English practice year 6](#)
- [Collins targeted Maths practice year 6](#)

We’d suggest doing two pages of exercises every day, if the work can be done more quickly then work for twenty minutes covering what ground you can.

Make sure you mark work quickly and feedback as this is where learning happens.



How to schedule the work

- Really the only way parents find works is to set a time and stick to it. So for instance you could say half an hour after their breakfast has been finished (it's an easy time to stick to because it's at the start of the day, nothing gets in the way and you all know then that it's done).
- You could of course choose any time you like but if you set a time in the evening then this risks taking over from reading time.
- Families will do what individually suits them but from our experience those who manage to work during the summer holidays, without feeling it's been a huge struggle, tend to be those who have set a time and who have stuck to it.



What results can you expect by working over the summer holidays?

- It's not unusual for teachers to comment on a marked difference between your child and their peers. Their peers may have gone backwards a little; your child would at least have stood still and in most cases will have moved forwards.
- Six weeks of tables, vocabulary development, reading and revision of the core literacy and numeracy topics will have given them much firmer foundations to then move into secondary school.
- As your child goes into secondary school this work will stand them in good stead. Children with aspirations to be in top sets will benefit from keeping their skills sharp. Other children will benefit from the improvement the revision will have delivered.



Summary

- **Children will go backwards over the summer if they do not do some work.**
- It's most important to keep going with the basics and if that's all you can do then this will be doing a great deal of good by itself.
- If you do have a little more time then creating a twenty minute slot every day and filling it as we have suggested will pay dividends and give you the comforting knowledge that your child's educational foundations will be stronger.

