



20<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear parents and carers,

With lockdowns, remote learning and isolations all impacting on each child's education across the country, the government have encouraged all schools to support parents and carers to work with us and offer suggestions to support their child's education through the summer break. A recent national study, focussing on children in Y1 & Y2 which we were part of, along with many other schools across the country, has concluded that the covid pandemic has impacted a loss of between 3 and 7 months in maths and reading (the areas they investigated) for Key Stage One children. We very much believe the efforts of our whole school community and commitment from yourselves to engage with the remote learning package, helped to lessen the impact on lost learning but know by keeping up some practice over the holiday period, the children will benefit and be in a better place to start their new year group in September.

I appreciate this has been a very tricky year for all in our community and know we are also looking forward to a break and some time to spend with family and friends. Listed below are some suggestions we hope you can access. We thank you in advance for your engagement with this.

## Reading

Hopefully you have picked up on our message that reading is a priority and should be continued throughout the summer. I have mentioned in a few newsletters and the accompanying report letter, about the importance of fluency in reading and given suggestions such as the library challenge. This is a lovely project which encourages children to use their local library and find books they want to read.

## Overview on phonics

Our reception and KS1 children have made excellent progress in their phonics this year despite the disruptions we have had, and we are very proud of them all. Reception, year 1 and year 2 teachers will share some short Read Write Inc videos on TEAMS that your children can watch through the holidays, so that they keep on practising recognising the sounds they know speedily and spotting those sounds in words. The right ones for your child can be found in their colour group on their class channel (remember, their colour will match the storybook colour that they bring home). We have also emailed some children with specific videos which will be just right for them, in which case please focus on those. For yellow, blue and grey group, fluency is key to making progress, so hearing your child reading the Read Write Inc storybooks they have at home repeatedly will support them with this: if it seems like they can read the story easily, then that is perfect for building fluency, so don't worry if the book seems too easy: that will be supporting them in developing fluency, which in turn will support their comprehension. Most importantly, though, making time to enjoy reading picture and/or chapter books to your children will help them to come back in September keen and enthusiastic to read.

Mr Johnston is also sending phonics-linked reading books for the children in our present Reception class. He would encourage all children to read these at least 3 times a week and practise their phonics sounds to keep these fresh in their minds for September.



**Love learning, work together, achieve and shine.**

Tatworth Primary School School Lane Tatworth Chard Somerset TA20 2RX  
Telephone: 01460 220565 Email: [tatworth@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:tatworth@educ.somerset.gov.uk)

Company Number: 7700773

[www.tatworth.somerset.sch.uk](http://www.tatworth.somerset.sch.uk)

## Spellings

Spellingframe is available for all children across the school during the holidays, even if specific lists have not been added. In year 1, Miss Farmer has also asked children to look on spellingframe for the red words.

**We have planned our usual reading/phonics evening for Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 5-6pm and we hope all parents/carers from Reception, Y1 & Y2 will attend.**

## Maths

Since our return to school in March, teachers and children have been working hard on securing the fundamentals of maths in each year group, focusing on mental maths recall and calculations. It would really benefit every child in the school if they could keep working on their mathematical fluency - this means continuing to recall number facts and work on increasing their speed.

So we would encourage you to have a look at the free games on **Mathsframe** (no login/password needed). Many of the games work for a range of skills from Y1 to Y6, so please do find one that your child enjoys. Mrs Hewitson's favourites are Snowball Smash, Maths Race (this is a racing car!) and Maths Fairground Shoot.

The BBC Bitesize website has two fun maths games: for children in Reception to Y2 they have **BBC KS1 Maths Karate Cats**, and older children will be challenged by **BBC KS2 Maths Guardians: Defenders of Mathematica**.

We also have our subscription to **Times Tables Rockstars** which can be accessed via a login/password by all children in Y2-Y6. Children in Y2 should be focusing on the 2, 5 and 10 times tables, children in Y3 should also know the 3, 4 and 8 times tables, and children in Y4-Y6 should be practising them all!

As you will be aware from our online maths lessons, we use WhiteRose maths materials. They have recently announced that they are working with Morrisons and offering parents free maths workbooks. From 26<sup>th</sup> July, any parents can collect a **free maths workbook** (for Y1-Y6) at any Morrisons store or, if you are unable to make it to a store, they can be downloaded free here: [Morrisons | White Rose Maths](#)

In a previous letter I have given information from Oak Academy about their parent/carer summer holiday offer and today I have received a new link from the government directed at parents and the summer. I have glanced through and there are extra support/suggestions on top of those already given, which is helpful.

Oak Academy: <https://www.thenational.academy/>

Government's catch-up campaign:

[https://educationcatchup.campaign.gov.uk/#catch\\_up\\_4\\_16\\_year\\_olds](https://educationcatchup.campaign.gov.uk/#catch_up_4_16_year_olds)

Government's summer suggestions:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rediscover-summer>

Yours sincerely



Tracey Hart  
Headteacher

