Dear Parents,

We are really looking forward to teaching your children in September and getting to know them better. As parents ourselves, we know the Summer Holidays come with many hours to fill and as teachers we know that skills that have been hard earned in Reception can regress! We have therefore put together a Summer Holiday Adventure Pack for you to complete with your child.

We have included one activity to complete each week of the holidays to keep finger muscles and bodies strong and maintain and improve concentration and focus. We would love to see your child’s hard work after the Summer Holidays and in return for their efforts, they will receive a certificate in Celebration Assembly. Please bring their work in by Thursday 11th September. Please note that this is a fun and voluntary adventure, if any activity causes upset or takes a long period to complete, just adapt it or miss it out and your child will still be rewarded for their efforts.

**Week 1:** Over the week play Hide and Seek with the words and sounds attached to this pack by cutting them up or writing on scrap paper. When you find the word/sound practise reading, maybe even writing them on lined paper too. Try to make sure your letters sit on the line! Perhaps even write a sentence or two using them, remember full stops and capital letters!

**Week 2:** Summer Shape Spotter, remember 2D shapes are flat shapes! Discuss the number of sides, whether they are curved or straight sides and how many corners they have.

**Week 3:** Design a Beach Hut, the extension is not necessary, but welcome if your child wants to complete it.

**Week 4:** Time yourself getting dressed and undressed, including shoes, coat, buttons and zips using a stop clock, can you beat your own time each day? Let us know your quickest time.

**Week 5:** Colour, write and post the addressed postcard your child brings home with this pack – don’t forget a stamp! Discuss the coins you use to pay for the stamp? Did you recognise any? Did you get change? What coins did you get? What colour and shape are they? Alternatively, bring it to school by Thursday 11th September.

**Week 6:** Interview an elderly neighbour or relative about the toys they played with as a child. What material were they made from? Do you have a similar toy now? A drawing, a photo or notes about this will be evidence for the challenge and will give your child a great foundation for our History topic about toys from the past.

**We are often asked by parents what they can do at home to support and help their children, here are our top tips:**

**Focus and Concentration**

Ask your child to complete a small task independently, such as putting their pyjamas on, tidying up, brushing their teeth, putting their shoes on etc, by the time you get back.

**Fine motor skills**

Children need strong fingers, hands and wrists to write neatly and for sustained periods. Any activity such as drawing, cutting with scissors, playdough, clay, bath crayons, Lego or Duplo etc will help to build stamina and muscles for controlled writing. Peeling bananas and satsumas is also great for fine motor skills and really helpful for snack time at school!

**Gross motor skills**

Hold competitions to get dressed and undressed in a time frame, visit parks and challenge children to climb and practise holding their own body weight.

**Writing**

Write post cards, keep a diary, play restaurants and write menus, write place settings for dinner, make invitations, write shopping lists and to do lists etc. Watch your child write, correct letters/numbers that have been written backwards and model correct letter/number formation if they are not forming them correctly.

**Maths**

Use real money and set up a shop at home, talk about and read the days of the week, months of the year, count on and back in 1s from 0-20, then start at a random number and count to 20 and back in 1s from the random number, put post it notes of numbers 1- 20 on the table and match with pasta bits, practise writing numbers, find 1-20 number cards when a number is called out, read number plates, door numbers etc. Look for 2D and 3D shapes while out.

**Reading**

Learning to read for a child is like unlocking a key to a magical universe, making access to the whole National Curriculum easier! We want children to love reading! Let your child see you read, talk about the book you are reading, let them see you read. Hide some of the words and sounds attached to this pack and play, ‘Word/Sound Hide and Seek,’ read and write the words once found. Visit the library. We have enclosed some Monster Phonics flash cards of words and sounds that your child has learned in Reception, please practise these regularly over the holidays.

Visit the library and borrow non-fiction books on any of the following topics: toys from the past, weather, seasons, animals, bodies, feelings, space, explorers, materials and plants. Libraries also hold levelled reading books you may like to borrow, these are often colour coded into levelled bands, choose pink, red or yellow level books which equate to Monster Phonics stages 1-3.

Here are some great websites your child may like to explore:

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/2/buried-treasure> - don’t go further than phase 4!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary#england> – select ‘England’, ‘Year 1,’ then explore!

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> – ‘Hit the Button’, ‘number bonds’, select ‘up to 10’

Have a wonderful summer and be sure to visit our class webpage over the holidays as we will be adding lots of information and fun to it:

https://www.digswell.herts.sch.uk/classes-1

We can’t wait for September,

Mrs Scott, Mrs de la Croix, Mrs Cox and Mrs Pereira



