



19 July 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

Summer learning loss and strategies to avoid it

I am writing to you regarding summer learning loss which is the loss of learning that occurs each summer for children in between school years. Studies have shown that children often backtrack in language skills such as reading, writing and spelling as well as in mathematical skills. There are, however, some strategies to help overcome this, and fortunately they're relatively straight forward and should not take away from your child enjoying a relaxing break.

Reading

Encouraging your child to read, or modelling reading by reading with them, is one of the best ways to reduce the loss in language skills. If your child doesn't have access to books, then we have several local libraries that they can become members of and borrow up to 20 books at once.

<https://www.reading.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/all-libraries/>

The full impacts of Covid-19 and the lockdowns on children's education are only now being understood, but early evidence suggests that there has been a negative impact children's ability to read, so this is also a chance to counteract this.

Revision and practice – thinking hard

This year students have been using thinking hard strategies in their lessons. These are designed to make them stop and think about their learning, which has been shown to improve understanding. Some of these are particularly useful to help aid small amounts of revision to reduce summer learning loss:

1. Reduce and transform – your child should take subject material that they find difficult and attempt to **reduce** it down to fewer points, or **transform** words into pictures or diagrams, or diagrams back into words.
2. Practice – practicing mathematics is one of the best ways to reduce learning loss of mathematical skills. Fortunately, there are a number of apps and websites already used by the school that can aid this in maths as well as other subjects
 - a. Hegarty Maths
 - b. GSCE pods (Years 9-10) – most subjects
 - c. Seneca Learning - Science
 - d. Kerboodle – Science and KS4 Religious Education
 - e. BBC Bitesize – all subjects

Personal curiosity

Finally, research suggest that personal curiosity can drive learning, so if your child if interested in something that doesn't fit the school curriculum, the summer is the perfect time to explore it to help them develop their interests.

We hope you find this information useful.

We hope you all have a lovely summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

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