

## Year 4/5 - Useful Tips

To help prepare your child for their new school year, please try to provide them with regular opportunities to read, write and count at home during the Summer. These DO NOT need to be formal tasks; wherever possible, they should be fun opportunities that arise during the day!

### Reading

Aim to read with your child for 15-20 minutes every day. This could be a mixture of them reading to you and you reading to them.

You can access a free e-book library on Oxford Owl by visiting their webpage and clicking on the 'Oxford Owl e-book library' link. This is a fantastic reading resource for children and books can be matched to your child's reading interests and ability.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

### Talk about their reading

- Ask your child what they are reading and talk about their ideas: What is the 'picture' they have of particular characters? What do they want to find out from the book? What are the important messages? What do they think is going to happen next? What else do they need to know to understand the story or topic?
- Talk about books on similar topics. This helps your child to pull together ideas from different places.
- Talk about different types of stories that are read or spoken. Newspaper articles, internet sites, comics, songs or novels will each have different points you can talk about together. Find a newspaper article you're both interested in and talk about what it means to each of you
- Help your child to share their thinking. Get them to share opinions and talk about why they think that.

- Give your child space and time to read. Reading longer books they have chosen needs plenty of time and reading stamina.
- Help your child choose books they're interested in (about hobbies, interests or who they are and where they come from) or encourage them to get books out that are about what they are studying at school. They may need you to help by reading to them, as well.

You can join North Tyneside Libraries online (to use their e-book service) by completing the registration at:

<https://capitadiscovery.co.uk/northtyneside/join>

- Find books of movies or TV programmes. It can help your child to learn different ways to tell the same story if they read the 'stories' they have watched.

## Writing

### Make writing fun

- Help your child write about their heroes, sports events, hobbies and interests. This helps them stay interested in what they are writing about
- Play word games and do puzzles together to help your child learn more about words and spelling
- Have interesting paper and pens available or help them make a special book to write in
- Play with words. Thinking of interesting words and discussing new ones can help increase the words your child uses when they write - look words up in the dictionary or on the Internet, Talk about your child's writing

### Write for a reason

- Encourage your child to write emails, invitations, thank you letters, poems, stories or postcards to friends and family - make it fun.

- Ask them to write a story to read to a younger sibling
- A diary or journal - on paper or on a computer - can help your child to write about their experiences and their own feelings about things that have happened at school, at home, in the world, at sports events and on TV.

## Mathematics

Talk together and have fun with numbers and patterns

Involve your child in:

- making and organising lunch or a meal for a party including equal sharing of fruit/biscuits/sandwiches/drinks
- helping at the supermarket / online shopping- choose items to weigh. Look for the best buy between different brands of the same items (breakfast cereal, spreads like jam or honey)
- practising times tables - [www.mathsframe.co.uk](http://www.mathsframe.co.uk) has some great online times tables games
- telling the time e.g., 5 past, 10 past, 20 past,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to, 25 to...

For wet afternoon/school holidays/weekends

Get together with your child and:

- play card and board games that use guessing and checking
- do complicated jigsaw puzzles
- plan for a special event on a budget; eg afternoon tea for a grandparent, teacher or family friend
- play outside games - cricket, basketball, mini-golf and soccer
- bake - follow a simple recipe (scones, biscuits)
- use blocks that fit together to make a model. Draw what it looks like from each side and above. Then draw what they think it looks like from underneath. Once finished, check the underneath of the real object against the drawing
- make water balloons and see how far you could throw them (outside!!) and how far the water splatters