

# Cornerstone Church of England (VA) Primary School

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*Building our Community with Love, Forgiveness and Hope  
Growing an Inspirational Learning Community*

17 July 2020

## Summer learning 2020

Dear Parents,

I would like to start by thanking you for all the support you have provided to your child, both in terms of their learning but also their positive mindset towards learning during these unprecedented months of disruption to 'normal schooling'. As a school we appreciate that this will have brought many challenges, but hopefully also some positive experiences to your child and your family. We have worked hard to try to support you in a variety of ways in this process, which has also been a challenge for us.

Some parents have asked for advice about what they could do with their child for a few short periods of time each week over the summer holiday to help make sure that key elements of learning are still fairly fresh and secure for their child prior to returning to school in September.

**Our crucial recommendation is that if you are spending some time on learning to focus on the year group learning which your child has been in during 2019-2020. Revisiting learning they have already covered helps them to secure their understanding, master the learning and will be far more effective than trying to move them on to next year's learning.**

A key drive for us as a school next year will be to minimise any gaps in learning from this year group's curriculum as well as to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding in the next year's curriculum.

**Reading** remains the most valuable, and indeed one of the most enjoyable, learning activities you can do with your child, whatever their age. Reading to your child, them reading to you, discussing the book (characters, setting, interesting words...) are all helpful for your child's development. For more ideas please refer to the Home Reading Bookmarks on the **Learning** page on our website: [Cornerstone website: Learning page](#). You could also sign up to the annual Summer Reading Challenge. Find out more about it here: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/summer-reading-challenge/take-part>.

If your child is in one of the younger classes it may also be beneficial to spend time re-practising their **phonics** with them. There are lots of helpful resources that you can find online to support your child and yourself. One we would recommend for hearing the sounds and the pattern in which we teach them is [Letters and Sounds: Oxford Owl](#).

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**Spelling** is another key element we would recommend practising with your child. Again, on the Learning page on the school website we have a list of the [Key words for each year group](#) which we would suggest you focus on with your child. Recapping the words from their current year group, and from previous years so they are more confident and accurate when writing them will support their transition back to school in September. Children in Years 1-6 have a login for spelling shed where they can practise lists of words set by their teacher, year group word lists and you can make your own word lists. This can be used throughout the holidays.

From a **maths** perspective we would recommend focusing on:

- Place Value: understanding and showing in different ways how much a number 'is worth' depending on which column it is in (*e.g. Hundreds, Tens and Ones*)
- Number bonds: adding and subtracting pairs of numbers quickly in their heads
- Times tables: again, practising the understanding and the accurate recall of the times tables for their year group

On our **Learning** page we have our [Calculation policy](#) which explains what size and complexity of numbers to ask your child to work with for each year group and each operation. It also helpfully gives examples of how your child could show their thinking practically (Concrete), through drawing pictures (Pictorial) and in written maths methods (Abstract). We would also recommend using the '**Maths Learn Its**' on the [Cornerstone website: Learning page](#) which have been designed to support learning at home. Children also have their own login details for the maths shed where you can do quick-fire maths based on the key areas above and Times Table Rockstars (TTRockstars) is really useful for building up speed with times table recall.

On behalf of the staff and governors, I hope you have an enjoyable and positive summer holiday, and I hope that each family gets the opportunity for some quality 'family time' together. As we have said throughout this period, supporting your child's wellbeing and positive outlook is the most important thing we can all do as parents, and will support them now and next year. However, if you want to also spend some time recapping some of their learning with them, we hope these suggestions prove helpful for you.

Wishing you all the best.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Clarke  
Headteacher

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