



Dream big, shine bright

St NICHOLAS

C of E Primary School, Alcester

Keeping Skills Sharp for September 2025

Reception to Year 1

We all deserve a well-earned summer break, but in order to keep your skills practised and help to prepare for the challenges of the next academic year, we have suggested some ideas of fun things you can do over the summer holidays to keep your school skills sharp.

Inside this booklet:

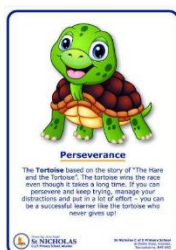
You will find a wide range of activities and links to help keep you occupied at home over the summer and keep those academic skills ticking over whilst you are having fun this summer.

- Ideas of English and Maths activities to try over the holidays.
- Information about the library summer reading challenge.
- Specific spelling, punctuation and grammar which you will be learning about next year and ideas of how to get a head start on this.
- Thrive activities to support wellbeing and regulation.

Look out for activities that could earn you a Golden Ticket in September or perhaps even win a prize!

Remember in September bring in your examples of activities that you have completed. Your new teacher will be so proud of your hard work this summer.

You could earn; Golden Tickets, reading stickers/bookmarks, house points and stamps in your planner.



Golden Ticket



Reading



Take part in the Library “Story Garden” Reading Challenge (available from all libraries). Register at [Summer Reading Challenge](#), visit the library to borrow books over the holiday and earn rewards and badges.

Read as much as you can - try a new author or different genre that you haven't tried before.

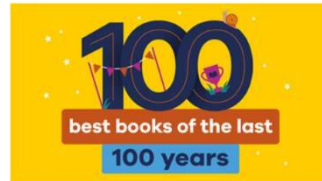


Recommend and/ or swap books you have enjoyed with friends and family.

There are lots of book recommendations here:

[Our book recommendations | BookTrust](#)

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/Summer Reading Challenge>



What was your favourite summer read?

Book Review

Book review by: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

Non fiction

☐

Fiction

☐

What is the book about?

Who would this book be suitable for? Age/interests

Would you/would you not recommend the book? Why?



Book Illustration

Phonics



Use your phonic skills to help your grown-up write a shopping list.

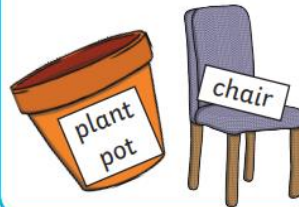
Write some letters on small pieces of paper or sticky notes. Can you build words with the letters?



Spread a layer of sand, flour or uncooked rice into the base of a tray. Ask a grown-up to say a word, then use your finger or a paintbrush to write the word into the sand. Try writing these words: sun, box, tap, coat, moon.



Make a collection of objects from around your house. Can you write labels for each object on small pieces of paper?



Ask a grown-up to write some words for items in the house, such as hat, toy, chair, bed, sink. Go on a hunt around the house and tick off all the objects on the checklist that you find.



Ask a grown-up to hide some objects in boxes. The objects must be items that can be decoded, for example a block, pen, leaf, car, train. On each box, write a label of what is inside. Read the words on the box and check inside to see if you were right.



Ask a grown-up to write a simple sentence, such as 'Look at my cat.' They can then cut the sentence up into individual words. Can you read each word and put the sentence in order?

Look

at

my

cat.



Can you write a menu for your breakfast, lunch or dinner so everyone in your house knows what they are having?

Writing

Get ahead...

Have a look at your year group's spelling, punctuation and grammar which you will be learning next year on our website: [Year group SPaG objectives | St Nicholas' CofE Primary \(secure-primariesite.net\)](https://www.secure-primariesite.net/Year%20group%20SPaG%20objectives)

Write a friend/ family member a post card, letter or email. Your child could also let their new teacher know what a lovely holiday they are having by sending a postcard to:

Your new teacher's name & class
St. Nicholas C E Primary School
St. Faith's Road
Alcester
Warwickshire
B49 6AG

Start your new school year off well with a Golden Ticket and house points for every postcard received!

Try these activities, games and websites:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

<https://www.ictgames.com/>

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

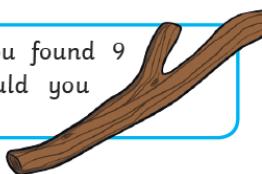
[Learning Activities - The Children's University of Manchester](https://www.childrens-university.co.uk/)

MATHS

Write out the numbers 0-20 on some paper or card, cut them up and then ask a grown-up to mix the numbers up – don't peek! Then, see how quickly you can put them into the correct order. You could ask someone to time you and then see if you can get faster when you try again.

Next time you open a packet of raisins, some carrot sticks or apple pieces, count out how many you have. If you're eating them with a friend, count how many they have too. Can you write the numbers down?

Collect 9 sticks. If you found 9 more, how many would you have altogether?



Build a tower with 7 bricks. Can you build two more towers of bricks, one that uses one less than 7 bricks and one that uses one more than 7? Can you put these in an order? What do you notice?



Shape, Measures and Data

Involve the children in the preparations of events / outings

eg Making the cakes for a picnic

- Weighing,
- Measuring liquids
- Doubling, halving (recipe quantities)

Planning a day out /trip

- Reading bus / train/ plane timetables and numbers
- Working out the cost of the trip, and cheapest way to travel
- How long a journey will take,
- Estimation miles/ kilometres,
- How much petrol is used, How much the petrol costs,

Use the supermarket trip

- Count how many items you are picking up
- Weighing fruit and vegetables

Notice and name shapes, both 2D and 3D, discussing their properties.

Useful Maths Websites:

www.mathszone.co.uk

www.nrich.maths.org

www.mathplayground.com

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/>

<https://trockstars.com/>

<https://www.ictgames.com/>

<https://keystagefun.co.uk/>

OPAL and Forest school ideas...

Take your paints and crayons outdoors and get inspired by nature's colours, textures, sights and sounds.

You can even collect natural items to use in their artwork. But remember, only gather things that have fallen naturally to the ground don't break things off trees and plants.



- Create a tree using sticks.
- Use fallen leaves and petals as 'stampers' - paint them, then press onto card to create a print.
- Make a natural collage or sculpture of an animal that lives in your garden, like a bumblebee or a grasshopper.
- Make a repeating pattern using leaves, petals or pebbles.
- Make mud paint by mixing soil with a little water.



Make a maze for a snail



Find the colours of the rainbow



Play noughts and crosses



Assemble a tiny stone tower



Make a potion or perfume

Wellbeing activities from My Happy Mind:

Support your child at home

Log onto the parent app for more information about the Meet Your Brain module and how you can support your child at home.

There are lots of activities you can do together including Happy Breathing and making a Glitter Jar, listening to the story and song, plus much more.

myHappyMind for Parents

Exclusively for parents with children at a myHappyMind School or Nursery.



Educate yourself

Learn all about what your children are learning in school



To access the materials just go to <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> and enter your name, email and authentication code.

(Please contact your school for your authentication code.)

Supporting wellbeing with Thrive:

Look after your wellbeing this summer - choose one, two or three activities to complete each week and tick them off as you go! Share your favourite activities on social media and tag @ThriveApproach in your post.

Thrive's 6 weeks of summer

1. Nature week

Explore your garden or local park and see what you can find - sticks, leaves, feathers. Arrange your items on the ground to create a picture.

Make a cake for the birds. Make a small hole in the bottom of a yoghurt pot, thread some string through and tie a knot on the inside. Leave enough string so that you can hang the pot up. Cut some soft lard into pieces and mix with seeds, raisins and cheese. Fill the pots and put them in the fridge. Once set, hang where birds can enjoy, and you can watch them!

Plan a day out with your friends or family. Go for a walk, bike ride, swim or picnic and enjoy being outside in the fresh air.

2. Art Week

Create splatter painting! Dip your paint brush or spoon into the paint then flick your wrist to splatter the paint across the paper. Continue splattering with different colours and movements to create your masterpiece.

Make a fan for a hot day. Decorate one side of a paper plate then fold it in half so the blank side is on the inside. Staple the outer edges together and tape a lolly stick to the middle as a handle - your fan is ready to use!

Try continuous line drawing - the aim is to not take your pencil off the paper. It doesn't matter if it makes the drawing look scribbly or messy - that's part of the fun!

3. Mindfulness week

Put a blanket down outside and watch the clouds. Notice how they move and change shape, what do they look like? Take some deep breaths and pretend you're blowing the clouds along.

Go for a mindful walk in your local area. Notice the colours, sounds and smells around you. How does your body feel when you walk slowly or when you go up a hill?

Find a meditation or body scan video to help relax your mind and body. How does it make you feel?

4. Gratitude week

Use the Thrive Gratitude Treasure Hunt to explore your surroundings and find things you're grateful for.

Make a jar of joy! Take note of joyful days, moments or feelings, write them down and put them in your jar. At the end of the year, open it up and remember all of the things that made you smile!

Say thank you to someone you care about by making them a surprise breakfast one morning.

5. Self-care week

Download the Thrive self-care bingo and see how many activities you can cross off in a week. Challenge your friends and family to do the same.

Plan a home spa day. Make your own natural facemasks, have a bubble bath or do your own pedicure. Do anything that makes you feel relaxed and special.

Research yoga and the benefits it can have on your mind and body. Try different poses and build your own sequence to practice.

6. Food week

Find a local market and see what food is on offer - is there something you've never tried before?

Have a picnic outside with your friends or family. Ask everyone to bring their favourite food to share with the group.

Get creative in the kitchen and cook a meal or snacks from a different country.

Yay, you've completed Thrive's 6 weeks of summer! Celebrate by downloading your certificate from thriveapproach.com/resources

Let's help every child **thrive**

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Joy and Celebration activities for children

- Write down happy memories and keep them in a jar for when you want to remember them
- Create a gratitude tree and hang it in your bedroom
- Celebrate someone you love by giving them a hug or complimenting them
- Create a collage to celebrate joyful moments

Let's help every child **thrive**