

# **PERRYFIELDS INFANT SCHOOL**



**Six weeks is a long time!**

**Here are a few ideas ....**

Dear Parents

### **Six Weeks is a long time!**

Well, here they are again! The summer holidays! Six weeks of long hot summer days! I'm sure you are all looking forward to a break from the usual routines.

Six weeks is also a long time for children to remember all the reading, writing and numeracy skills that they have worked so hard to acquire during the year. Overleaf are a few ideas just to keep your child's key skills 'ticking over' until September.

We would also like all children to complete a 'Holiday Diary' and you will find an exercise book in this pack for that purpose. Children should write, draw pictures or stick in tickets, labels or photographs of places they have visited during the summer. There will be a prize for the best diary in each class, on the children's return to school in September.

'Work' during the summer should of course be fun! Just 10 minutes a day will be enough to ensure success. Little and often is the key with plenty of rewards for effort. Rewards don't have to be expensive. Here are just a few ideas:

Smiles

Hugs

Having special time with parents

*(without siblings being there)*

Having a few extra minutes before going to bed

*(agree a time and stick to it)*

Choosing a meal

Praise in front of others

Putting stickers on chart together

Having a trip out

An extra story time

Chocolate bar or other treat

Going on a picnic

Going on a cycle ride together

Having a friend round to play

Having a friend round to tea

Baking a cake/biscuits, etc. with mum or dad

Playing a game

Going to the park

All that remains for me to do is to wish you all a happy summer holiday.

Yours sincerely



Amanda Reid  
Headteacher

## **Write on!**

Talking, reading and writing are totally inter-linked although writing is always the last skill to develop. Once again praise is vital – don't worry too much about spelling.

- Use all sorts of writing instruments – pencils, felt-tips, chalk, paint brushes – anything that makes a mark.
- Provide as many different types of paper as possible, big, small whiteboards, patio paving, wallpaper (rolls that have not been papered on the walls!).
- Playdough rolled into letters
- Writing in wet sand
- Letter snap
- Key word snap
- Write shopping lists
- Lists of words beginning with some letter
- Lists of cars, flowers, etc.
- For older children practice writing and spelling the key words
- Remember to use small letters unless at the beginning of a sequence or for a name

## Keep on reading ....

- Talk – children cannot read until they can talk. Help them to grow in confidence by talking to them when you are at home, in the car, at the shops, out for a walk, watching TV.
- Help children to speak clearly by listening carefully to what they have to say – encouraging more than just ‘yes’ or ‘no’. Always show an interest in what they say.
- Share books together, discuss pictures, ask what might happen on the next line or next page.
- Ask questions –
  - What is the character’s name?
  - What is happening in the picture?
  - What is going to happen next?
- Re-read familiar books to boost confidence and consolidate skills.
- Turn the television off.
- Read a wide variety of books – fiction, non-fiction, comics, magazines.
- Make your own books about an event. Let them use their own words.
- Re-write popular stories – make a different ending.
- Listen to stories or tapes.
- Play word games – ‘I Spy’.
- Look at the **sounds** letters make and how sounds build upwards.
- Practice key words.
- Join the library – there are hundreds of books and story telling sessions and it is all free!

## **Keep on counting ....**

- Count everything and everywhere!
- Notice numbers – door numbers, packaging, prices and ask questions like “What if there were 10 more?”
- Notice the time and talk about how long it is until something happens.
- Model using your fingers to count on and say things like “how many more?”
- Let them play with money and make amounts using different coins.
- Let them help weigh ingredients and look at different scales.