



Bluecoat Wollaton Summer Literacy Challenge

Reading and writing challenges to keep you learning throughout the summer.

Bring any completed work to your new English teacher in September for a chance to win a prize!



Bluecoat Wollaton
believe in yourself, in others, in God

Encouraging reading over the summer – an activity a day for a month!

1. Design a timeline showing the order in which these authors wrote:
Robert Browning, William Shakespeare, Emily Bronte, Michael Morpurgo, Jacqueline Wilson, Jane Austen, J.K. Rowling, Frank Cottrell Boyce, Geoffrey Chaucer and Carol Ann Duffy.
2. Read the number plates of cars you pass on a journey. Make up silly sentences using their letters.
3. Read a newspaper together. Can you find the 5ws? (who, when, where, what and why?)
4. Find your parent/carer's favourite children's book and read it together.
5. Read a tourist leaflet and plan a visit together.
6. Put your books in alphabetical order by writer's surname.
7. Read the sports results out loud like a TV or Radio presenter.
8. Read a book out loud and record yourself doing so (maybe on your phone) – add in sound effects.
9. Read a recipe and make it together.
10. Take a photo of you reading a book in an unusual place. Send a copy to school.
11. Listen to an audio book (maybe in the car).
12. Find an article about a celebrity. Read it together to find out new information about them.
13. Work through the alphabet in a dictionary and find a new word each day to use. Who can use the most?
14. Borrow a Kindle, an iPad or look on the Internet to read an e-book.
15. Make a life size version of the main character in the book you've just read.
16. Look at a weather map and prepare your own weather forecast.
17. Write an alternative title for the book you're reading.
18. Read a children's book to a younger family member.
19. Design a survey about reading and ask your family and friends to complete it. What have you learnt?
20. Watch a film on DVD or in the cinema that is based on a book that you've read. Discuss which was better.
21. Read a magazine article together. Can you find the 5ws? (who, when, where, what and why?)
22. Visit the local library – it's free to join! Maybe there's a summer activity programme?
23. Read a match day programme together.
24. Plan a party for the characters in a book you've just read. Design the invitation, games and menu.
25. Find the locations mentioned in the last book you read on a map.
26. Read a chapter or a book out loud in a silly voice.
27. Read a newspaper headline – talk about what you think the article will be about. Then read the article, were you right?
28. Read a poem out loud.
29. Read the TV guide and plan your viewing for the week.
30. Have a go at a crossword in a newspaper or online, and look up any words you didn't know.
31. Read part of a story and then act it out.

You can also complete the activities on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/english/reading/>

Encouraging writing over the summer – an activity a day for the summer!

Below are enough writing prompts to keep you busy all summer! **Try to write at least two each week.** You should have a minimum of six pieces of completed writing when school begins in September. (That does not mean write six times in the last week of August!) Choose from any of the topics below. You do not have to write them only on that specific day or during that week. (For example, it's okay to write about a July topic in August.) Give your writing into Miss Duncan for the chance to win excellent prizes. Of course it's okay to have more than six pieces of writing!

Remember:

- ◆ Do not rush through these tasks. Each piece should be an example of quality work. Always reread your work, then reread it again!
- ◆ If a prompt says to write a paragraph, remember that means a minimum of five sentences!
- ◆ Remember your accuracy – check your punctuation and try to use impressive vocabulary.

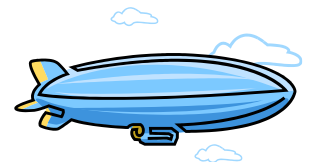
July 1



This day is “International Joke Day.” Many people love to tell jokes. Create several jokes of your own to share with your family. You may want to read a few different types of jokes to help you get started. Write down your five favourite jokes. They can be ones you made up, or ones that you have heard or read somewhere.

July 2

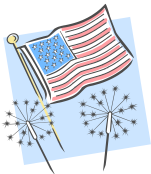
On this day in 1900, the first Zeppelin (blimp) flew. This ship, named after Ferdinand von Zeppelin, was initially used as an experiment for regular airship travel. Today we often see blimps, or zeppelins, flying over sporting events. Would you like to travel in an airship like this? Explain why or why not? Then design a blimp decorated any way you like.



July 3

July 3 marks the beginning of the “Dog Days of Summer.” These days are typically the hottest and most humid time of the year. They get their name due to the fact these days occur when the “Dog Star” Sirius rises before the sun. Write a paragraph about your favourite “Dog Day” activity. What do you like to do best on a hot, lazy day?

July 4



On July 4, 1776, the United States declared its independence from Britain. Every year Americans celebrate this holiday with fireworks. How do you think this tradition came to be? Do some research to find out why Americans use fireworks on the 4th of July. Write a paragraph explaining what you discovered.

July 5

P.T. Barnum was born on this day in 1810. He was a great circus ringmaster and helped start the famous Ringling Brothers, Barnum & Bailey Circus. If you could be a performer in a circus, what would you like to do? Would you train tigers, walk on a tightrope, be a funny clown or do one of the hundreds of other jobs? Write a paragraph



describing what you would like to do at a circus and why. Draw a picture of you doing your job!

July 6

On July 6th the first postcard was made. Design a postcard of a place you have visited or would like to visit. On your postcard, write a note to a friend or family member from that place telling them how your holiday is going so far. Remember to include a greeting and a closing.

July 7

Would you believe July 7th is “Macaroni Day”? Think about your favourite food that includes pasta. Find a recipe for that dish. What are the ingredients? Make a shopping list that includes everything you would need to buy at the shop (assume you have none of the food at home) to make your favourite dish that includes pasta.

July 8

On July 8th in 1955, British gardener, Monty Don, was born. Describe a beautiful garden remembering to include adjectives and senses to create a perfect paradise.

July 9



July 9th is “National Sugar Cookie Day.” Describe the ultimate biscuit you would like to make, decorate and eat. Write a paragraph that uses very descriptive words that appeal to the senses. Be sure to include the shape, colours and decorations. Don’t forget to draw a sketch of your amazingly delicious biscuit.

July 10

On July 10, 1916, illustrator Martin Provensen was born. Martin worked for Walt Disney where he collaborated on "Dumbo" and "Fantasia." Write the opening scene for a new Disney film; you could include illustrations of your characters.

July 11

On this day in 1899, author E.B. White was born. White is the author of Charlotte’s Web. Like many classic books, this one was made into a film. Think about a book you have read that has a film that goes with it. Do you think it’s better to read a book before seeing the film? Why or why not? Write a paragraph that states your opinion and gives at least three reasons to back it up.

July 12

Today is “Paper Bag Day.” It marks the day that the paper bag manufacturing machine was patented. Make a list of ten different things you could do with a brown paper grocery bag. Draw your favourite idea.

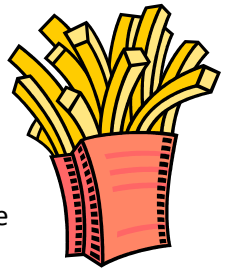
July 13

July 13th is “Cheer up the Lonely Day.” When someone you know is feeling lonely or sad, what do you do to help them feel better? Design a “Cheer Up” card that would be appropriate to give to someone who is feeling lonely. Include a message on front of the card as well as one inside the card. Don’t forget to sign your card.



July 14

Today is Bastille Day, a national holiday in France. It also happens to be National French Fry Day in the United States. Do you think that is a coincidence? Anyway, think about French Fries. The average American eats 29.5 pounds of French fries every year. Do you like French Fries or would you rather have another side dish with your hamburger or hot dog? Your job here is to write about French Fries—write anything you want to write. Tell me how you like to eat them, tell me about your favourite restaurant for French Fries. Maybe your grandma makes the best French Fries in the world and you want to write about that. Go for it!



July 15

July is “National Picnic Month.” If you could plan the ideal picnic for your family, what would it be like? Write a paragraph that includes who would be at your picnic, where it would be, what you would eat and what activities you would do before/after you eat.



July 16

On July 16, 1969, Apollo 11 lifted off for its voyage to the moon. Do you think we will ever live on the moon? Why or why not? Would you like to live there? What do you imagine life would be like on the moon? Write a paragraph answering all of these questions.

July 17

On this day in 1955, Disneyland opened. What is your favourite amusement park ride and/or activity? Write a paragraph about it and illustrate your paragraph.

July 18

July is “National Ice Cream Month.” First, describe your favourite flavour of ice cream. Next, create a new flavour of ice cream. What ingredients are in your favourite flavour? What name will you give your ice cream?



July 19

On July 19, 1916, Eve Merriam was born. Merriam was a poet, playwright and teacher. She began writing poetry when she was seven. Think about your favourite form of poetry and write a poem. Add an illustration to your poem.

July 20



Today is “Moon Day” to mark our first landing on the moon. There are many character traits an astronaut must possess. Write a paragraph describing what traits you think an astronaut should have. What do you think is the most important trait for an astronaut? Why did you select this one?

July 21

Today is “National Junk Food Day.” Think about your favourite type of junk food and how often you are allowed to eat this food. Do you think you think children should be allowed to eat their favourite foods as much as they want? What are the environmental impacts of junk food? Write a paragraph taking a stand on these questions, and give at least three reasons to support your opinions.

July 22

Imagine you could become invisible whenever you wanted to. What are some of the things you would do if you were invisible? Write a story about what one day in your life would be like as an invisible person.

July 23

Robert Quackenbush, the author and illustrator of nearly two hundred books for young readers, was born on this day. If you could be an author and/or illustrator what types of books would you like to write? In a paragraph, describe the types of books you would like to write and explain why.

July 24

Today is "Amelia Earhart Day" in honour of her birthday in 1897. Earhart was the first person to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean. Using resources in the library or on the internet (with your parent's permission) learn five facts about Amelia Earhart and summarize them in your own words in a paragraph.



July 25

July is "National Recreation Month." After you have looked up the word "recreation" in the dictionary, describe your favourite recreational activity. When and where do you like to do this activity. Why is it your favourite?

July 26

The Sesame Street character Bert was introduced for the first time in 1969. Bert lives with his best friend Ernie and his hobbies include cooking oatmeal, paperclip collecting and watching pigeons. If you could create a new character for Sesame Street, what type of character would it be? What would you name the character? What would your character's hobbies be? Write a paragraph describing your new character and of course, draw a picture of him/her/it!



July 27

Pretend that television, computers, the Internet, smartphones, ipads, and video games had never been invented. How would you spend your time on a rainy summer afternoon? Write a paragraph describing what you would do without any technology.

July 28



On this day the first fingerprint was taken for identification. Ed Emberley is known for his fingerprint drawings. Using ink and your fingers (with parent's permission of course!) create several characters. Give each of them names and think of what their personalities would be like. Write a short story (1-2 pages) about them.

July 29

Trees are full of leaves and life at this time of year. Draw a tree that is near your house or in a place you know (like a park). Can you describe it using all the senses? Don't forget to think about what can grow on trees and what can live on trees! (what you can see/smell/hear/touch/taste)



July 30

Write one page describing your best day ever!

July 31

What is your favourite animal? Draw it and explain why it is your favourite.

August 1

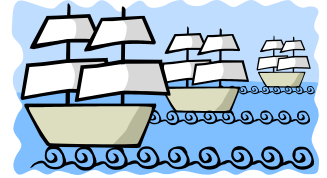
On this day in 1779, lawyer and poet Francis Scott Key was born. After witnessing an attack during the American Civil War, Key wrote a poem. This poem was later set to music and became known as, "The Star-Spangled Banner" a song about America. Write your own poem honouring an event in British



history maybe based on events happening in the news this week.

August 2

In the summer we often have more time to be outside in nice weather. Nature is very good at helping us to feel calm and happy. With parents' permission, go outside somewhere and write down all the animals you can see and hear, and describe the plants around you.



August 3

On August 3, 1492, explorer Christopher Columbus set sail from Spain. Many people remember this with the rhyme, "In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue." While learning about new things, it sometimes helps to create rhymes to help remember specific facts. Think about something you have trouble remembering. Write about what it is you have trouble remembering, and then write a rhyme that will help you remember it. Can you think of any other rhymes you could make for other things that are tough to remember?

August 4

On this date in 1901, musician Louis Armstrong was born. Armstrong was an amazing jazz trumpeter. Write a paragraph answering these questions: If you could play any instrument, which instrument would you want to play and why? If you already play an instrument, why did you choose that instrument?



August 5

Write a letter to one of your favourite relatives telling them how much you appreciate and love them, and how much fun you have with them. Remember to include a greeting and a closing.

August 6

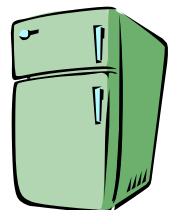
Today is Friendship Day. What makes a great friend? What characteristics does a friend have? What is a friend willing to do? Create a "wanted advert" that could go in a newspaper looking for a "Great Friend."

August 7

In the holidays lots of people go to the seaside. Describe your favourite trip to the seaside. If you have not been to the ocean, explain why you would or would not like to go to the ocean.

August 8

On this date in 1899, a man by the name of Albert T. Marshall received the patent for an "automatic refrigerating apparatus," better known as the refrigerator. In at least one paragraph, explain why you think the refrigerator was such an important invention. How would life be different without refrigerators?



August 9

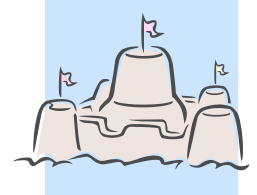
Forest fires are extremely dangerous. Write a paragraph persuading people who like camping to handle fire carefully. Design a sign you would post in the woods to remind people not to do things that could start a forest fire.

August 10

Would you like to be Prime Minister? Why or why not? Write a speech introducing yourself as the new British Prime Minister stating your beliefs and plans for your term of office.

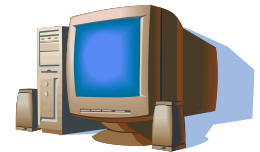
August 11

Today is "National Play in the Sand Day." Describe what your ideal sandcastle would look like. Don't forget to include a sketch.



August 12

On this day in 1981, IBM announced a new personal computer (PC) for home use. Write a paragraph explaining how you think computers have helped our lives. Are there any negatives that computers have brought?

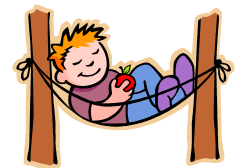


August 13

August is "National Inventors Month." Think of a new invention you would like to create. Write a paragraph describing your invention. Explain why it is needed. Don't forget to write about how your invention will be used and who will use it. Draw a picture to go along with the description of your invention.

August 14

Describe a time that you had to solve a problem with a friend or family member. What was the problem and how was it resolved?



August 15

Today is "National Relaxation Day." Write a paragraph that describes one way you have relaxed and had fun during this summer holiday.

August 16



August is National Eye Exam Month. We often take our eye sight for granted. Sit for two minutes with your eyes closed - maybe in your garden, in your kitchen or in your lounge - and notice what it's like to not "see" anything. How was this similar or different to sitting in this same location with your eyes open? Write a paragraph about how you used your other senses when your eyes were closed. What did you hear, smell, touch?

August 17

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you like to travel and why? What would you want to do there? Write a paragraph explaining your ideas.



August 18

If you were going to create your own series of books, what type of characters would you have? What genre of series would you write? Write at least one paragraph explaining your thoughts.

August 19

If you could play a professional sport what one would it be and why? Write a paragraph explaining your ideas.

August 20.

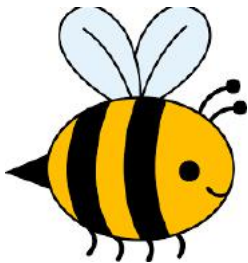
In 1710, Thomas Simpson, an English Mathematician was born. Write a paragraph explaining why it is important to study Maths and Numeracy.

August 21

Plan a scrumptious dinner for your family that includes all of your favourite dishes. What will you serve for a starter, main course, dessert and drink? Make a one page menu showing what you will be serving that night. Decorate it any way you like.



August 22



Today is National Honey Bee Day. Bees are very important but they need our help! Do some research about why bees are so important to the world, and make a poster showing what you have found and what we can do to help bees.

August 23

On this day in 1966, the first photograph of Earth from the moon was taken by the Lunar Orbiter.

If you were seeing Earth from the moon for the first time, what would be your thoughts? Pretend you are a scientist at NASA and write a journal entry describing what you see and your thoughts about it. This should be 5-6 sentences.

August 24

What is your ambition? Write a paragraph describing the goal that you have and what you will need to do to reach your goal.

August 25

Today is "National Banana Split Day." Write directions for how to make a delicious banana split. Make sure you include a list of ingredients needed and step by step directions on how to make it. Ask your parents to use the Internet if you need help.



August 26

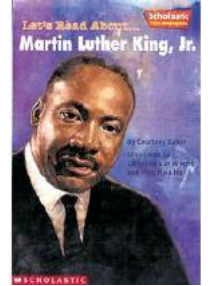
In 1768 James Cook set sail on the Endeavour to the Pacific. Write an account of a journey you would like to make. What would it be like to discover a new place?

August 27

Mother Teresa was born on this day in 1910. Mother Teresa dedicated her life to helping others. Write a list of ten things you can do to help others today or this week. After that, write a paragraph describing what you did and how it helped someone else.

August 28

On this day in 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” speech. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s dream was for all people, no matter what their skin colour, to be treated equal. What is your dream? Write a speech that describes your dream.



August 29



On this day in 1934, the first Scout camp opened. Have you ever been to a camp? If so, describe your experience. If not, describe what camp would you like to attend and what activities you could do there. Would you like to go to a day camp or a sleepover camp?

August 30

Lots of people like to go to the seaside in the summer, but more and more of our ocean life is being threatened with plastic waste. Write down a list of what you could do in your family to reduce how much single-use plastics you use at home (and in school!). You might want to illustrate it too!



August 31

It's nearly the end of your summer holiday. Write a postcard describing what you've enjoyed.

Congratulations! You have completed your literacy challenge for the summer!

Don't forget to bring all your work to Ms Highfield to be in with a chance of winning a prize.