

Productive Things to Do During the School Holidays

Dear Students and Parents

It's that time of the year again! Long summer days ,plenty of indoor time and lazing around the house!

Millions of students around the world think to themselves, "Now what am I going to do with all this free time?"

Sure, there are games to play, movies to watch, and friends to hang out with.

But there are also plenty of productive things to do during the school holidays. Parents can help their children achieve certain positive goals during these holidays.

1. Reflect on the year gone by.

Take out a sheet of paper and answer these three questions:



- What did I do well in the past year?
- What did I not do so well in the past year?
- What will I do differently in the coming year?
- Paste this sheet in the centre of your room.

2. Set process goals for the coming year.

This is a follow-up to Point #1.

Set *process* goals for the coming year instead of *performance* goals, because process goals are far more effective.

What's the difference between the two [types of goals](#)?

Process goals are what you intend to do, while performance goals are [what you intend to achieve](#). Here's an example.

Performance goal: Get an A for math next year.

Process goal: Do three extra math questions every day after dinner.

By setting process goals, you're more likely to take action than if you only set performance goals.

So take some time and set 5 to 10 process goals for the coming year.

3. Watch educational YouTube videos and Ted Talk .



4. Watch documentaries.



© Can Stock Photo - csp20747183

You can watch thousands of high-quality documentaries for free at [Documentary Heaven](#).

5. Get a job: Don't be surprised !



Don't worry too much about what the job will pay. As the saying goes, "Take a job for what you will *learn*, not for what you will *earn*."

You can do family chores like dusting, cleaning the cars, helping the gardener. This will bring a smile on the lips of your family members!

6. Learn a new language.

Visit these websites and learn a new language:



- [Duolingo](#)
- [Babbel](#)
- [BBC Languages](#)

7. Find a cause you care about.



The school holidays are a good time to give back to the society. Teach someone, help clean your colony or visit an old age home.

8. Volunteer.

As a follow-up to Point #7, find a practical way to serve and contribute. You could volunteer to clean up the beach, help out at a nursing home or animal shelter, or deliver meals to the elderly.

9. Improve your physical health.

You have more time during the school holidays. So this is a great opportunity to start [sleeping well](#), exercising regularly, and [eating healthily](#).

10. Learn a new skill.

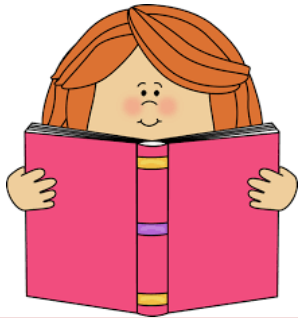


You could learn skills like...

- Public speaking
- Cooking
- Drawing
- Self-defense
- Negotiation
- Listening
- Positive thinking

11. Read.

I strongly recommend that you read these five books:



- Black Beauty by Anna Sewell
- Tom Sawyer by Charles Dickens
- Charlie and the Chocolate factory by Ronald Dahl
- Blue Umbrella by Ruskin Bond

12. Take an online course.

There are thousands of online courses to choose from on [Coursera](#) and [Udemy](#).

13. Build or fix something.

Fix a broken fan, build a computer, or make a table. These are skills that will come in handy in the future.

14. Visit museums.



A trip to a museum will make you more knowledgeable, and you'll probably leave feeling inspired too.

What's more, it's typically free (or cheap) to get in.

16. Learn to manage your money.



Money management is a valuable life skill. Get started by checking out the resources at [Practical Money Skills for Life](#).

17. Pick up a new hobby.

You'll probably feel bored at some point during the school holidays. That's the time to pick up a new hobby like...



- Juggling
- Gardening
- Playing the ukulele
- Dancing
- Photography
- Stargazing

18. Sell the things you aren't using.

I'm sure you own many things you aren't using, which other people would be willing to pay for.

So hold a garage sale, or put the items up for sale online.



20. Achieve an athletic goal .

Work toward a specific athletic goal.

Here are some examples:

- Do 50 push-ups in 1 minute
- Do 50 sit-ups in 1 minute
- Run a mile under 7 minutes

21. Reconnect with friends and family members.

Reconnect with friends and family members whom you didn't get to spend much time with during the school term. Chat with your Grandpa and Grandma.

At the very least, send them a text or email to show them that you're thinking of them.

22. Enjoy nature.

Go for a hike, have a picnic, fly a kite, or visit a nature reserve.

23. Improve your vocabulary.

Students' success in school and life is linked to the size of their vocabulary.



I'm sure you want to be successful, so use these three resources to improve your vocabulary:

- [Vocabulary.com](https://www.vocabulary.com)
- [EnhanceMyVocabulary.com](https://www.enhancemyvocabulary.com)
- [MyCollegeSuccessStory.com](https://www.mycollegesuccessstory.com)

24. Improve your writing skills.

Writing skills are important for academic success, and they're even more important for [career success](#). So work on your writing skills this school holiday.

Read [this excellent article](#) on how to improve your writing. Next, read at least one of these books and put into practice what you've learned:

- [*The Elements of Style*](#) by William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White
- [*Writing Tools*](#) by Roy Peter Clark
- [*On Writing Well*](#) by William Zinsser

25. Declutter.

Give away books and notes you no longer need, and files you no longer use. In addition, clear your desk and get organized. Clear your cupboard.

This way, you'll set yourself up for a fruitful upcoming year.

26. Develop healthy habits.



Nathaniel Emmons once said, “Habit is either the best of servants or the worst of masters.”

These are possible habits to develop this school holiday:

- Daily reflection
- Reading for 15 minutes before bed
- Keeping a [gratitude journal](#)
- Getting on a regular sleep schedule
- Drinking more water

27. Read articles on how to become a happy, successful student.

Read these articles (the last three are written by me):

- [The Unintended Consequence of an Overwhelmed Student](#)
- [How to Stay Focused: Train Your Brain](#)
- [How to Study Smart: 20 Scientific Ways to Learn Faster](#)
- [8 Truths That Successful Students Understand](#)
- [How I Became a Straight-A Student by Following These 7 Rules](#)

28. Learn about your family history.

By doing this, you'll discover interesting things about your family.

Not only that, research indicates that people who know their family history tend to have [higher self-esteem](#) too.

30. Watch Khan Academy videos.

This school holiday, brush up on your math, science, and humanities by watching [Khan Academy](#) videos.

31. Increase your reading speed.

The faster you read, the faster you learn.

Improve your reading speed by checking out [this resource](#) and [this resource](#).

33. Talk to as many adults as possible about career options.

It's never too early to start thinking about your future career.

Reach out to your relatives, family friends, teachers, and neighbors. Offer to buy them a cup of coffee, and ask them if they'd be willing to share their experiences and insights.

Set a goal for this school holiday of talking to at least one adult a week about career options.

34. Create a personal website.

Your chances of getting into that program you're applying for – or getting that job or internship – will be higher if you have a personal website.

Your chances will be *even* higher if your website looks as beautiful as [this one](#), [this one](#), or [this one](#).

I recommend using the WordPress platform for your website; here's a [complete website setup guide](#). And don't worry, you don't have to create your website from scratch. You can find over 30 free, professional-looking WordPress themes [here](#).

35. Increase your typing speed.

In all likelihood, as you get older you'll need to do more typing on your computer.

Explore these three websites to increase your typing speed:

- [Typing.com](#)
- [TypeRacer.com](#)
- [RapidTyping.com](#)

36. Find a mentor.

A good mentor will help you become more self-aware, make better decisions, and find [long-term success](#).

This [Forbes article](#) provides practical tips on finding a mentor. I also offer a [1-to-1 mentoring program](#) to help students become happy and successful.

37. Write thank-you notes.



Many people say "thank you" via text message or email. But few people write *actual* thank-you notes. This school holiday, become one of those people.

Make a list of the people who have helped you in one way or another the past year: friends, teachers, relatives, and family members.

Write each of those people a thank-you note. Then either mail the note to them or give it to them in person.

The bottom line

It's impossible to do all things described in this article. Besides, I know you also want to have plenty of fun this school holiday.

So don't feel overwhelmed.

Instead, develop a realistic plan. As you follow your plan, I'm confident that you'll have a meaningful, productive, and fun-filled school holiday!

Happy Holidays!

Ms Pooja Bose

Principal

KR Mangalam World school

Greater Noida