

BACK to School

It's that time of year again; the summer holidays are over and that means back to school! Back to school is all about new things. It's the start of a new school year and a new routine. Do you have a new school bag or a new pencil case? Do you have any new clothes for school? Do you have a new classroom, a new teacher or maybe even a new school?

When new things happen, some people feel excited but other people find changes more difficult. The first day of the new school year can be a bit worrying, particularly if you're meeting a new teacher or joining a new class. However, once you're in your new class and you've met your new teacher, these worries will hopefully disappear and you'll be ready to get started on all the exciting things to do in the year ahead!

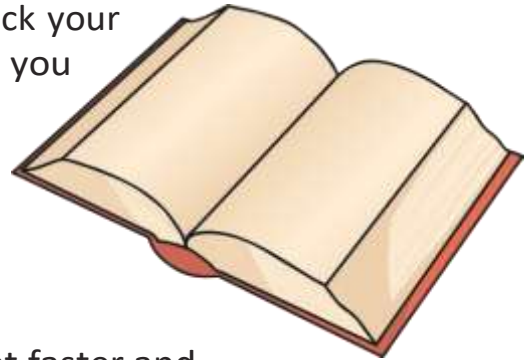


So, what can you look forward to in the new school year? Think about the topics your class will study this year. Maybe you'll focus on a topic like Mary Queen of Scots or the Second World War. Perhaps you'll compare Scotland with another country, like Japan. Topics about the human body or the environment are always fascinating. There are so many different things you could learn about!



Perhaps your class will go on a trip this year. It might be a day away or even a week. School trips often visit cities like Edinburgh or Glasgow and take in tourist attractions like Edinburgh Castle, Dynamic Earth, Hampden Park or the Glasgow Science Centre. If you already live near these places, perhaps your school will plan to go to an outdoor activity centre. At these centres, you can try lots of different things like abseiling, kayaking, archery or even flying down a zip wire! That sounds like an exciting school trip! Where do you think would be a good place to visit, learn lots and have fun?

In the classroom, will you get better at writing stories? Will you be able to write in different ways and for different purposes? Will you use amazing vocabulary, conjunctions and openers in your writing? Will you remember all your punctuation and check your writing makes sense? How many books will you read in the year ahead? Which new books will you try out? Will you find an author whose stories mean you can't put the book down?



How about your skills in maths? Will you get faster and more accurate at mental maths? Will you know all the times tables facts? Will you master maths topics like telling the time? How about dividing or working with fractions? It would be great if you had mastered fraction work by the end of the year!

Will your class put on a show for others to watch? Will you win an event at sports day or be in the winning team? Will you learn to play an instrument or paint an amazing picture? Will you write some code to create a fun computer program? The school year won't last long enough for all the amazing things you could try to do!



Back to school is an exciting time but so is the whole school year! To make it the best year ever, be willing to have a go at all the things your teachers plan for you, give every activity your best shot (even if you're not that keen at first) and enjoy it. You might even discover that you're good at something you hadn't tried before. By next July, you'll wonder where the year went!

Questions

1. What happens when the summer holidays are over?

2. Why is back to school all about new things?

3. Why do some people worry about the new school year?

4. What tourist attractions can schools visit in Edinburgh or Glasgow?

5. Why do you think schools visit cities like Edinburgh and Glasgow?

6. The text asks 'Will you find an author whose stories mean you can't put the book down?' What does this mean?

7. How can you make your school year the best year ever?

8. What are you looking forward to in the year ahead? Make a list of eight things you'd like to do or learn about at school this year and say why you'd like to do each one.
