



Summer Reading Booklist

A booklist for EYFS, KS1 & KS2 pupils

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With the end of term fast-approaching, it's almost time for you and your pupils to enjoy a well-deserved rest over the holidays.

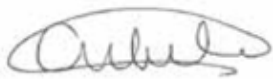
However, research has shown that reading levels can dip over longer breaks and it can be difficult to motivate children to pick up a book again in September.

To help we've put together a brilliant Summer Reading Booklist packed with the latest releases for EYFS, KS1 and KS2 pupils. Not only are they all new this year, the list includes a mix of picturebooks, poetry, older fiction and non-fiction so there's something for every reader.

At the end of the booklist, you'll also find some of our top tips to make reading fun during the summer holidays. These tips might be particularly useful for parents and carers so please feel free to share them with your school community.

We hope you find this useful and if you have any feedback, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Best wishes,



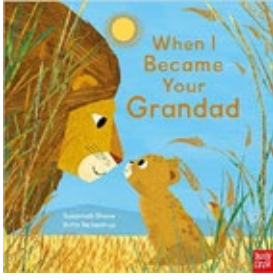
Christopher White
Director

BookSpace



BookSpace helps schools to promote reading at all opportunities, whether it's in the classroom, library or outside in the fresh air.

Visit our [website](#) to find out more information about our products and services.



When I Became Your Grandad

Author: Susannah Shane

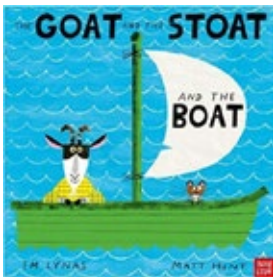
Publish date: 4th May 2023

Reading age: 2–5 years

A heart-warming picturebook about the love between grandfathers and grandchildren – perfect for time spent with family over the summer holidays.

For one little lion cub, days spent with Grandad are always the best days of all. From playing in the golden grass to watching a rainbow and snuggling up as night falls, Grandad is there to share, play, help and cuddle.

With a beautifully reassuring rhyming text by Susannah Shane and stunning artwork by award-winning illustrator Britta Teckentrup, this picturebook makes the perfect read for children and grandparents.



The Goat and the Stoat and the Boat

Author: Em Lynas

Publish date: 4th May 2023

Reading age: 2–5 years

A raucous, rhyming tale that will have children (and adults) in fits of laughter!

Stoat is playing in his favourite boat when suddenly Goat comes bounding in! Chaos ensues as an angry Stoat tries to chase Goat out of his boat. But before long, Goat and Stoat's lively antics make the boat wobble and wobble! Uh-oh! Can Stoat float in the water? And will Goat's colourful coat be ruined?

From the duo behind the bestselling *The Cat and the Rat and the Hat* comes this hilarious, read-aloud picturebook, bursting with comic capers and animal antics.

Features a hilarious, tongue-twister text, slapstick humour, bright neon artwork and colourful characters.

Perfect for fans of *Oi Frog!*



The Bowerbird

Author: Julia Donaldson

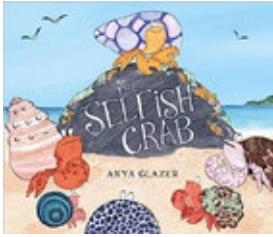
Publish date: 30th March 2023

Reading age: 3–5 years

The Bowerbird is the irresistible tale of Bert – a small bird with a very big heart, from Number One bestselling Julia Donaldson and Catherine Rayner, winner of the Kate Greenaway Medal for Illustration.

Bert the bowerbird has made the most perfect bower nest, complete with a pretty purple flower, and is hoping it will help him to meet the bird of his dreams.

But will all his efforts to create a beautiful display be enough to win over Nanette?



The Selfish Crab

Author: Anya Glazer

Publish date: 4th May 2023

Reading age: 3-7 years

This is a great read for day trips to the beach this summer!

Claude has the most beautiful shell of all the crabs on the beach. It makes him feel special and he's determined never, ever to part with it. Of course, hermit crabs change their shells as they grow-in fact they often swap with each other.

But when it's time to swap, Claude says 'NO!!' His decision spins the hermit crab community into chaos and it means that little Alphonso's shell is much too big. At the seaside this is dangerous.

Can Claude give up his selfish ways in time to save his friend?



The Bear Who Had Nothing to Wear

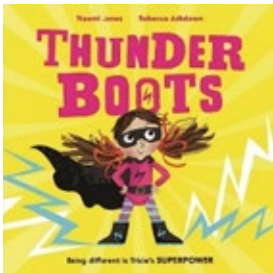
Author: Jeanne Willis

Publish date: 2nd June 2023

Reading age: 3-7 years

Most teddy bears let their owner decide, but Albie would not, for a bear has its pride. But each outfit that Albie purchases – from fairy to pirate, from cowboy to elegant city gent – proves unsuitable in some way, and by the end of the week his bedroom is heaped with discarded clothes. How will he dress in order to feel like himself?

A hilarious story in verse that's great to read aloud, about dressing up and one bear's search for his own identity.



Thunderboots

Author: Naomi Jones

Publish date: 1st June 2023

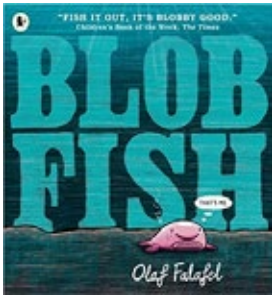
Reading age: 3-7 years

A good book to read towards the end of the school holidays.

Trixie is the smallest person in Primrose Tower, but also the loudest and the building's residents have given her an affectionate nickname: THUNDERBOOTS.

When it's time for Trixie to start school, she is very excited. Sometimes it's hard to concentrate in class, though. And it's really hard to read letters. Maybe what Trixie needs is a superpowered plan.

An empowering story about starting school with dyslexia that celebrates everyone's differences.



Blobfish

Author: Olaf Falafel

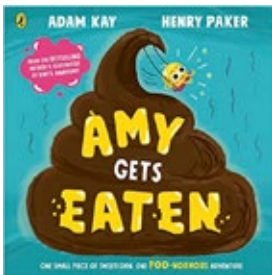
Publish date: 1st June 2023

Reading age: 3–9 years

A heartfelt and humorous adventure from the bottom of the sea and beyond, following one fish on an epic journey.

Deep, deep, deep under the sea ... lives Blobfish! Blobfish loves telling jokes, although he has no one to share them with, so he sets off on an adventure to find a friend.

But sometimes friends turn up in the most unexpected places, even at the bottom of the ocean. This heartfelt and humorous story gently introduces children to themes of friendship, belonging and the issue of plastics in our oceans.



Amy Gets Eaten

Author: Adam Kay

Publish date: 27th April 2023

Reading age: 4–6 years

This is the hilarious (and admittedly a tiny bit gross) tale of Amy, a small piece of sweetcorn who is eaten by Noah, a medium-sized boy. The story follows Amy on her funny, gooey and anatomically-accurate adventure through the human body as she discovers lots of facts about digestion. (It's fair to say that parents might learn a little bit too.)

Recommended by BookSpace designer Michelle Tomlinson (and her twin boys Jude and Dylan aged 4!)



The Night We Got Stuck in a Story

Author: Ben Miller

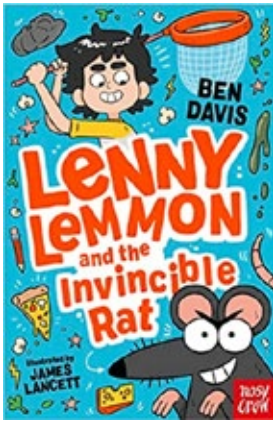
Publish date: 11th May 2023

Reading age: 7+

Lana and Harrison are staying with their grandparents, when they discover their favourite tree to play in is under threat. That night, a magical golden thread leads them up through the hollow of the tree into a storybook land, where wind and rain rage and a fearsome beast terrifies all who live there.

When Harrison is kidnapped by the evil Queen, Lana must do whatever it takes to find him, save the villagers and restore the balance of the storybook world, before the night is out.

A breathtaking journey through magical worlds for all the family, featuring Lana and Harrison, the adventure-loving siblings from the bestselling *The Day I Fell into a Fairytale*, from master storyteller, Ben Miller.



Lenny Lemmon and the Invincible Rat

Author: Ben Davis

Publish date: 4th May 2023

Reading age: 7-9 years

Hilarious school-based comedy for 7+ with black and white illustrations throughout.

Lenny Lemmon is looking forward to Olden Days Day at school. It's a chance to break the routine and try school as it was years ago. It explains the blackboard in the corner, his teacher's bad temper and why his friend Sam looks like Oliver Twist. Lenny is pleased with his own contribution, too. It's in a cardboard box at the back of the class at the moment because it's not yet time to shine. Except it escapes and ends up in the bowl of sick, sorry, gruel, that Amelia Kelly has brought up, sorry, in.

Soon there are small, gruelly footprints all over the classroom and also a lot of screaming because the rat that Lenny found by the back of the chip shop is FREE. It takes the arrival of cool new girl, Jessica Conrad, to distract everyone. Jessica has a plan to catch the rat but it'll cost them!

Can the three kids round up the rat before more damage is done? Or will they end up in the headmaster's office - again. Maybe, but they're going to need a bigger net..



Dog Man: Twenty Thousand Fleas Under the Sea

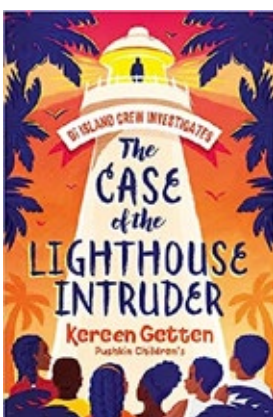
Author: Dav Pilkey

Publish date: 28th March 2023

Reading age: 7-11 years

Piggy is back, and his newest plot is his most diabolical yet. Dog Man and the rest of your favourite characters must join together in this heroic and hilarious, ALL NEW adventure.

WHAT new villains are on the horizon? WHERE are they all coming from? And WHO will step forward to save the city when scoundrels sabotage our Supa Buddies? Find out in DOG MAN #11 - there's so much more than ever before - it's EPIC!



The Case of the Lighthouse Intruder

Author: Kereen Getten

Publish date: 1st June 2023

Reading age: 7-11 years

Uncover the secrets of the island in The Case of the Lighthouse Intruder the gripping first book in Kereen Getten's thrilling new mystery series, Di Island Crew Investigates!

Fayson's dream of becoming a detective finally comes true when her cousins recruit her to their top-secret gang. But the Greatest Gang of All Time isn't exactly living up to their name, constantly side-tracked by food, sleep and squabbles. Determined to set things right, Fayson takes charge and dives into the mystery surrounding a mysterious shadow haunting the island's lighthouse.

With tensions rising within the gang, Fayson relies on her sharp smarts and inspiration from her favourite mystery novels to crack the case. Can she unravel the secrets, confront the shadow, and unite her friends?



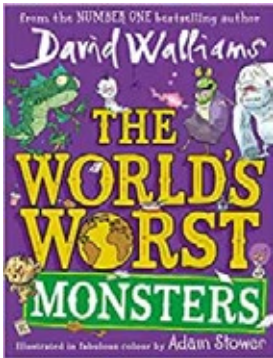
Sharks! Sharks! Sharks!

Author: Susan Martineau

Publish date: 1st June 2023

Reading age: 7-12 years

What is a shark? Do sharks have friends? And do sharks really have superpowers? The perfect book to surprise shark-loving superfans and delight nature investigators everywhere. Join award-winning non-fiction duo, Susan Martineau and Vicky Barker, as they journey through mangroves, along the shore and into the deep on the hunt for the answers to these questions ... and many more. There are coral reef sharks, glow-in-the-dark sharks, baby sharks and even mystery sharks. But the big question on your mind is ... do they want to eat us? Dive in and find out!



The World's Worst Monsters

Author: David Walliams

Publish date: 6th July 2023

Reading age: 7-12 years

The beloved World's Worst series has captivated millions of readers. You've met the world's worst children, the world's worst parents, the world's worst teachers and the world's worst pets – but are you ready for the world's worst monsters? If you don't like ghosts, ogres, zombies, vampires, aliens, werewolves or mummies, DO NOT READ THIS BOOK.



The Kingdom Over the Sea

Author: Zohra Nabi

Publish date: 2nd May 2023

Reading age: 8+

My own Yara, if you are reading this, then something terrible has happened, and you are on your own. To return to the city of Zehaira, you must read out the words on the back of this letter . . . Good luck, my brave girl.

When Yara's mother passes away, she leaves behind a letter and a strange set of instructions. Yara must travel from the home she has always known to a place that is not on any map – Zehaira, a world of sorcerers, alchemists and simmering magic. But Zehaira is not the land it used to be. The practice of magic has been outlawed, the Sultan's alchemists are plotting a sinister scheme – and the answers Yara is searching for seem to be out of reach.

Yara must summon all of her courage to discover the truth about her mother's past and her own identity . . . and to find her place in this magical new world.



Bridget Vanderpuff and the Baked Escape

Author: Martin Stewart

Publish date: 8th June 2023

Reading age: 8+

The first in a new madcap, hilarious series about Bridget Vanderpuff, whipsmart inventor and amateur sleuth with a taste for adventure. It's a recipe for fun with mystery, villainy, cake and sprinkles of silliness, heart and hope.

Bridget Baxter is the very last orphan at the Orphanage for Errant Childs, left at the mercy of the awful Miss Acrid and her foul-smelling fish sandwiches. Miss Acrid's mission is to make Bridget's life a misery. But Bridget is more than a match for her.

When kindly Mr Vanderpuff arrives at the Orphanage in search of a child to care for, Bridget thinks her luck has finally turned. Mr Vanderpuff is the village baker, and his shop is a world of wonders. But they soon discover that Bridget is absolutely terrible at baking. When Miss Acrid returns for the ultimate revenge, Bridget must open the Locked and Secret Door, navigate Miss Acrid's spiderweb of booby traps and use her unique baking skills to save herself - and Mr Vanderpuff - from certain disaster.



Cosima Unfortunate Steals a Star

Author: Laura Noakes

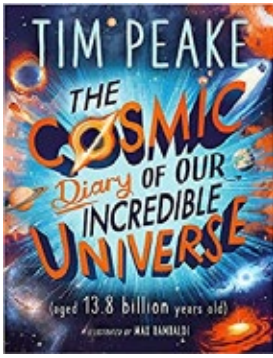
Publish date: 25th May 2023

Reading age: 8+

Exciting, funny, moving – and featuring joyous and authentic disabled representation.

Cosima Unfortunate has spent all her life at the Home for Unfortunate Girls – a school where any disabled children, or children deemed different, are sent, whether their families want it or not. It is there that she meets her friends – Pearl, Mary and Diya – and they start to practice mini heists involving the theft of cakes, biscuits and other sweet goodies.

But when Cos finds out that Lord Francis Fitzroy, the explorer behind the Empire Exhibition, is planning to adopt them, she and her friends plot the biggest heist of their life. Instead of fondant fancies, they're going to steal Fitzroy's prized tiara, containing the legendary Star Diamond of India! But, as they start preparing for the day, Cosima finds herself drawing ever closer to discovering the one secret she's always wanted to know – the truth about her parents...



The Cosmic Diary of our Incredible Universe

Author: Tom Peake

Publish date: 25th May 2023

Reading age: 8–12 years

Told through the fascinating 'diary' of the Universe itself, along with astronaut Tim Peake and a host of expert space STEM characters, this book takes children on a mind-blowing adventure to understand some of the REALLY BIG QUESTIONS about how our incredible universe came to be.

How old is the universe? How hot was the Big Bang? How are stars made? What happens when galaxies collide? What is a Black Hole? Would you like to eat Cosmic Soup? (Answer: No) Does extra-terrestrial life exist? What is the future of Planet Earth? Will humans ever live on another planet?



Skandar and the Phantom Rider

Author: A.F. Steadman

Publish date: 27th April 2023

Reading age: 9–11 years

Don't miss this second book in the international bestselling SKANDAR series, an unmissable adventure for fans of Harry Potter, Percy Jackson and Eragon.

Skandar Smith has achieved his dream to train as a unicorn rider. But as Skandar and his friends enter their second year at the Eyrie, a new threat arises. Immortal wild unicorns are somehow being killed, a prophecy warns of terrible danger, and elemental destruction begins to ravage the Island.

Meanwhile, Skandar's sister, Kenna, longs to join him – and Skandar is determined to help her, no matter what. As the storm gathers, can Skandar discover how to stop the Island tearing itself apart – before it's too late for them all?

Get ready for more action, unforgettable characters, and mesmerizing world building. Be one of the first to join the adventure



Pizza Pete and the Perilous Potions

Author: Carrie Sellon

Publish date: 8th June 2023

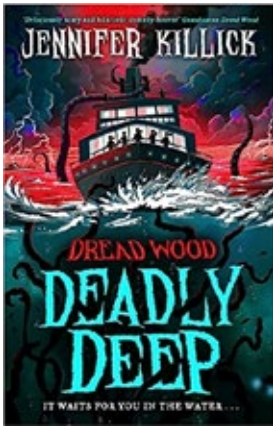
Reading age: 9–12 years

Twenty-five days ago, something awful happened, and I made a promise to myself. Never to leave home again.

Pete loves the pizza shop, where he lives with his dad, and is terrified of the outside world. But when a new restaurant steals their customers, Pete and his friend Anna have to come up with an **INGENIOUS** plan to sell more pizzas, otherwise he'll be forced to move.

When they find a mysterious briefcase in the attic, they create the most extraordinary magical pizzas, and soon a queue of customers snakes down the road. But can they make enough money in four days to save Pete's home?

Throw in an exploding headmistress, a fire-breathing dog and a vengeful bully and Pete's life soon ramps up from Margherita to Spicy Pepperoni!



Deadly Deep

Author: Jennifer Killick

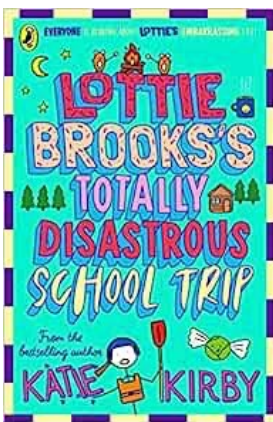
Publish date: 31st August 2023

Reading age: 9-12 years

The brand new must-read KS2 novel from the author of super-spooky Crater Lake. Perfect for 9+ fans of R.L.Stine's Goosebumps and Stranger Things!

It's summer term and time for a school trip with a difference! Year 8 are on a boat off the coast of France, learning about ocean life. But things are about to get WEIRD . . .

Who is the creepy man on board the ship? And what IS the vast, shadowy creature seen lurking at the bottom of the ocean? When the ship is sunk Club Loser realise that they are the only ones who can save the day, and their classmates. Can they outwit and defeat a giant, deadly sea monster from the depths? It's a fight for survival and if they fail, Club Loser will find themselves in a watery grave...



Lottie Brooks's Totally Disastrous School Trip

Author: Katie Kirby

Publish date: 6th July 2023

Reading age: 9-12 years

Lottie Brooks continues to navigate the many perils of growing up in this fantastically funny illustrated series for a 9-12 audience, filled with friendship, embarrassing moments and plenty of laughs.

Woe is me. So much is wrong in my life...

Still look like a tomato

Am stuck indoors whilst my friends go bowling without me (rude)

My parents are leaving me to go out on a 'Date Night.' GROSS!

After a summer of meeting handsome French boys and getting a tiny bit sunburnt. OK, fine - a lot sunburnt, Lottie's heading off on a week-long residential school trip. A whole week away from embarrassing parents and Toby's tasty air biscuits!

But the trip soon turns into a total disaster. The other girls staying at the camp are MEGA-MEAN, best friend Jess is spending all her time with new girl Isha, and Lottie's diary gets stolen!

Who knew a school trip could cause so much DRAMA?!

"Don't miss these top tips to keep children reading over the summer"





Tips to keep children reading over the summer

Allow children to make their own reading choices

Once school is out for the summer, it can be difficult to get children to pick up a book again until September. Allowing children to choose what, when and how they read can help them to develop positive, lifelong reading habits.

Introducing different types of reading **materials such as magazines, comics or graphic novels** (perfect for dropping into a beach bag or rucksack) can be a gentle way to encourage children to engage in reading and let them know reading doesn't have to mean long dense texts.

Shorter reading materials are a great way to **encourage reluctant readers** and studies show magazines about sports, nature or history go down particularly well with boys.



And don't worry about children reading on phones, tablets or eBooks. Research carried out by the National Literacy Trust shows that reading both print and **on screens benefits children's literacy**.

"Digital reading is becoming an increasingly important part of children's literacy lives. It gives children new and exciting ways to access a wide range of reading materials and is particularly effective at getting disengaged groups of children excited about reading"

Jonathan Douglas, National Literacy Trust

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/news/digital-reading-axe-the-reading-tax>

BookSpace

www.bookspaceforschools.co.uk

Plan a trip to your local library

Public libraries are a fantastic resource if you can get to one in the holidays. Most libraries run special events, storytime sessions and lots of different activities that bring the local community together to share **a love of reading**.

Why not arrange a 'book-date' with your child's friends so they can visit the library together and share their personal reading experiences with each other and make recommendations.

One of the biggest **free** events over the holidays is the **Summer Reading Challenge** which aims to prevent the summer reading 'dip' that many children experience over the break. This year's theme is 'Ready, Set, Read' and is all about sports and games to keep both children's minds and bodies active over the break. It kicks off on 24th June in Scotland and 8th July 2023 in England and Wales. To find your nearest library running this year's challenge, take a look here: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/library-zone>

Take reading material on holiday

BookSpace designer, Hanna Carlton, recommends packing a few books for family holidays.

"I always pack a few books for days at the beach so when it gets too hot, my children can take a break in the shade and enjoy a moment of calm. For my youngest child Eliza, I've found having her favourite picturebooks to hand provides a sense of familiarity, which can also help her adjust to new surroundings more easily."

This idea of using familiar books links back to our first tip - let children choose what they want to read. Don't worry if your child wants to choose a book they've already read. Rereading is shown to provide comfort, support fluency, build comprehension skills and develop confidence as a young reader. So don't be afraid to take a few favourites on holiday, you might just find your child prefers to revisit a much-loved tale.



Build a reading den

It's no secret that children **love making dens**. Using household items such as boxes and bedsheets, you can create a cosy reading nook outside or inside depending on the weather. For outdoor dens, encourage your child to find natural objects such as leaves, sticks, flowers and stones for decoration and then fill it with lots of lovely books. If you're creating an indoor reading den, create an extra-special storytime experience by turning down the lights and using torches or nightlights.

Go find a book

This is another fun game that can be played at your local library and is great for introducing new books to children. Here are some examples of challenges for you to start with.

Go find a book...

that has an
animal on the
front cover



Go find a book...

that contains
lots of
interesting
facts



Go find a book...

that is a
true story



Go find a book...

that is set in
the future



Go find a book...

that features
a monster



Go find a book...

that is about
a pirate



Go find a book...

that your
friend might
like to read



Go find a book...

that is set in a
different
country



Go find a book...

that is about
sport



Take reading outside

Research tells us that outdoor reading has a wide range of benefits for children's **physical, mental and emotional health**. So why not have a **'booknic'** this summer? Head to the park or garden, grab a blanket, a few books, some snacks and have your own unique storytime in the sun.

In fact, reading outside can help bring stories to life, especially when that book is about nature. If you're looking for some ideas and suggestions, for outdoor reading, check out our free booklist with 50 Great Books to Read Outside.

<https://www.bookspaceforschools.co.uk/50-great-books-to-read-outside>



Lead by example

It's a well-known fact that children copy their parents' behaviours so why not use the summer holidays to send an important message to your child – that **'reading is fun'**! Use any opportunity to talk about books, on a journey, at the dining table or on a walk to the park. Just a few positive mentions ("I was so shocked when..."; "I laughed out loud when...") can make a huge difference to your child's attitudes towards reading.

Combine reading and play

During the school holidays, picking up a book may be the last thing on your child's mind. However, by **incorporating creative games** you can turn reading into a fun summer activity and get children excited about books.

Treasure hunts are always a hit with children and are ideal for days at home. The game is simple: to find books that have been hidden around the house or garden, solve the clues and win a prize.

Start by giving your child a clue about a book they have at home e.g. "This worm is no ordinary worm!" Once the children have found the book (Superworm), tucked inside is another clue which will lead them to the next challenge until they find the prize.



Look for reading everywhere

The summer holidays might seem like fun but we know everyday tasks still have to be done around the home. So why not turn household chores into **fun reading challenges**?

A trip to the supermarket, for example, can be turned into an activity that develops reading and writing skills. Start by asking your child to make a list of items that you need from the shop and once you're there, you can encourage children to use signs above the aisles and shelf labels to locate the items on your shopping list.

Another popular indoor activity with children of all ages is playing 'Masterchef'. You can either find a new recipe to try or make a much-loved favourite. Not only does it encourage writing down different ingredients and reading instructions, there's a valuable reward at the end to enjoy!