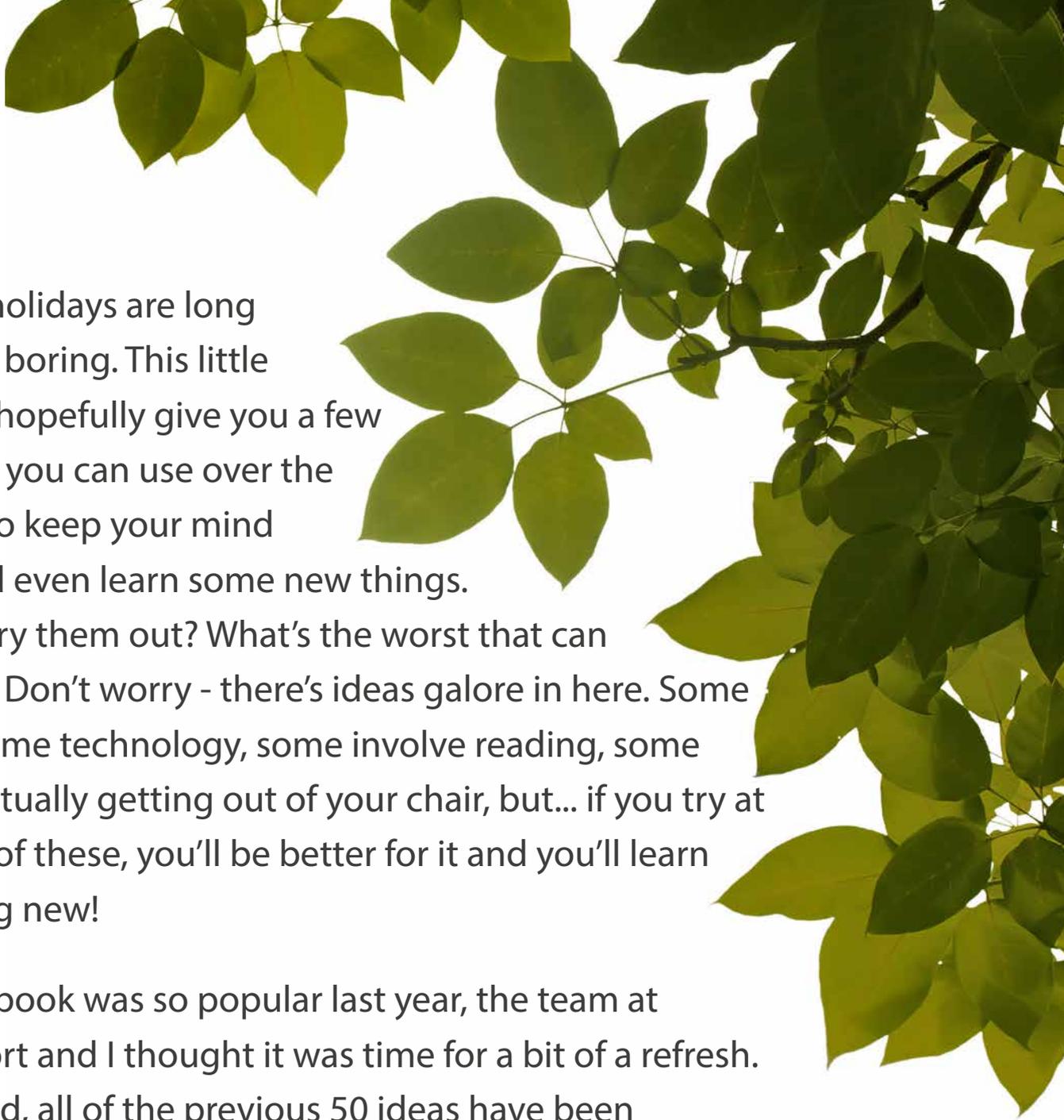


60 THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER

Mark Anderson
@ICTEvangelist

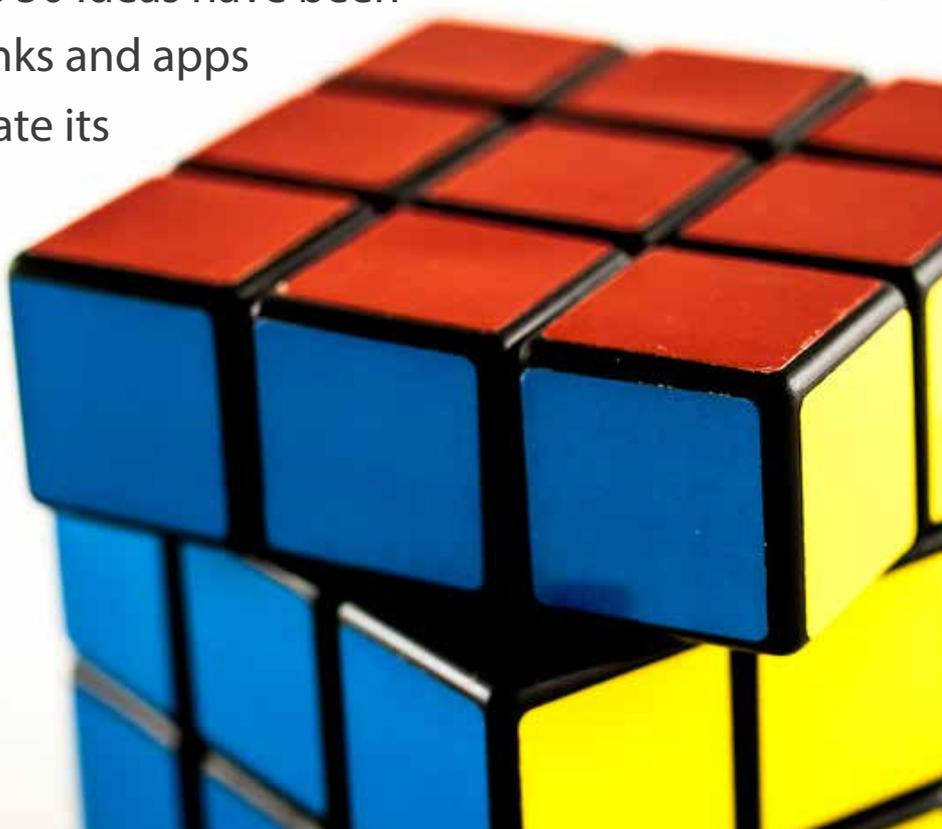




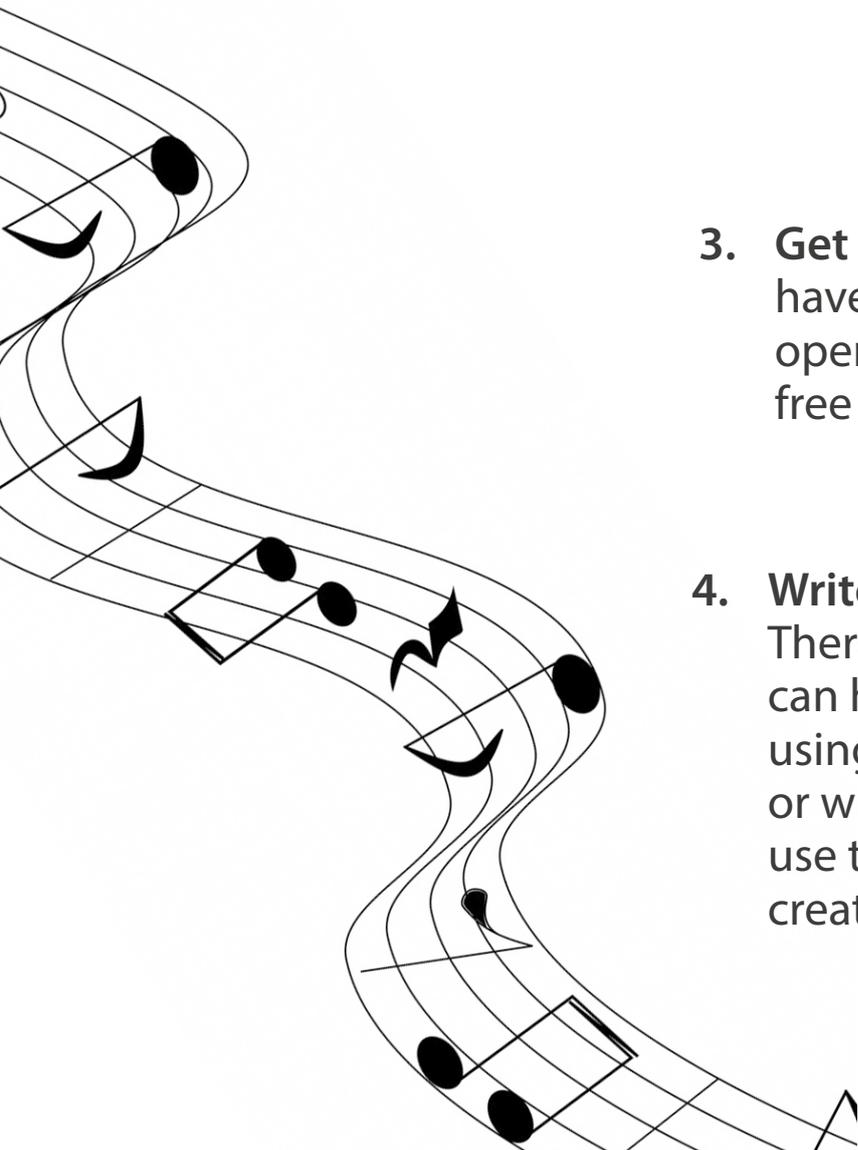
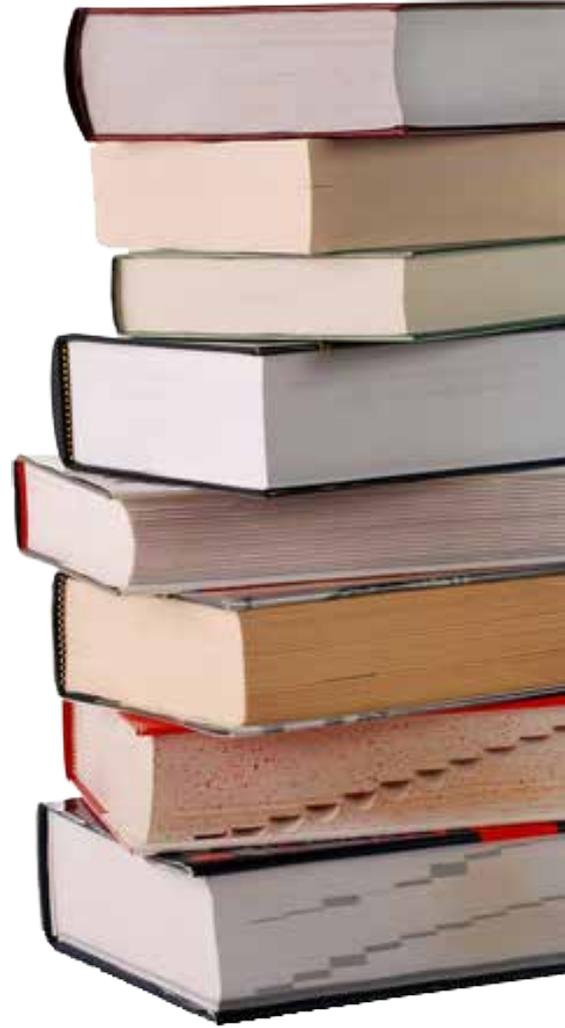
Summer holidays are long and often boring. This little book will hopefully give you a few ideas that you can use over the holidays to keep your mind active and even learn some new things.

Why not try them out? What's the worst that can happen?? Don't worry - there's ideas galore in here. Some involve some technology, some involve reading, some involve actually getting out of your chair, but... if you try at least one of these, you'll be better for it and you'll learn something new!

This little book was so popular last year, the team at NetSupport and I thought it was time for a bit of a refresh. To that end, all of the previous 50 ideas have been given a lick of paint and the links and apps have been updated. To celebrate its relaunch, we have added ten more ideas for you to try out this summer too! Enjoy!



1. **Read a classic book like Tess of the D'Urbervilles** - Tess of the D'Urbervilles is a story of love and death and is exciting in the extreme. Often read in one sitting, this classic tale can be yours for free on lots of platforms such as iBooks or Kindle.
2. **Read all the Harry Potter books if you haven't already** - That's right - you've seen the films, now find out what the real story is about and be amazed, enthused and enthralled. All you need is your library card and you can read them all for free! If you haven't got a library card, do number 3 and then return to number 2.



3. **Get a library card** - What??! You haven't got a library card? Get one and open your mind to a whole world of free reading and awesome books.
4. **Write a song** - Go on - you can do it! There are lots of apps available that can help you do it too. Why not try using GarageBand if you have a tablet or why not visit incredibox.com and use their samples to make up your own creation?!

5. **Build and fly a kite** - You'll need some materials here, but follow the simple guidelines on [this website](#) and you'll be up and flying in no time.

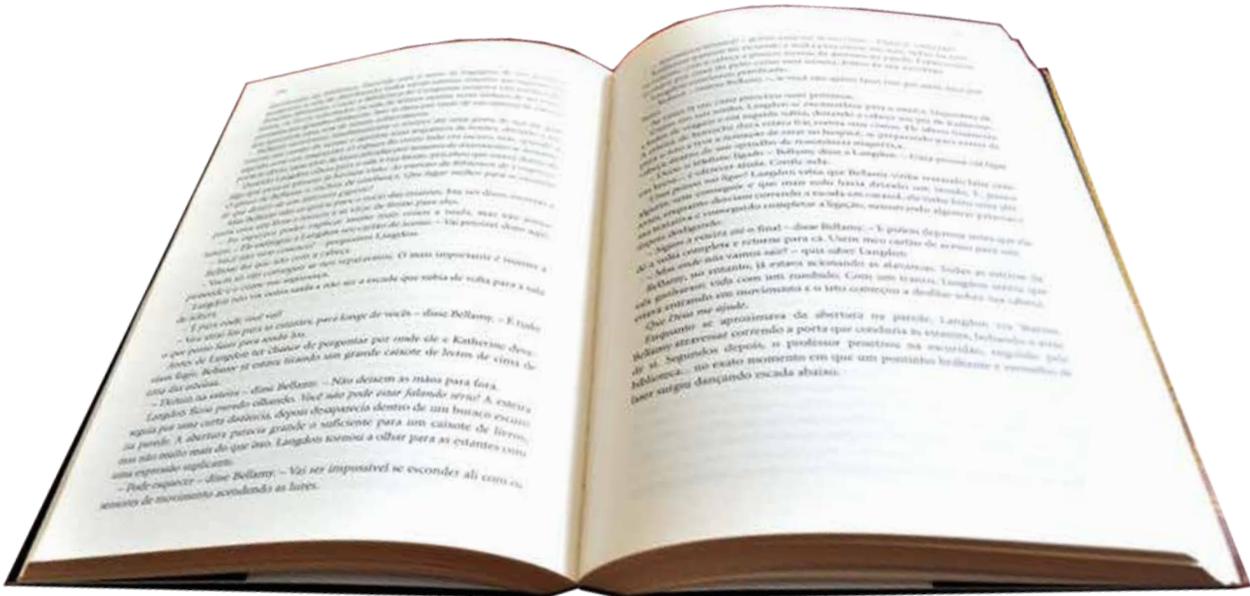
6. **Learn a poem off by heart** - There are lots out there to choose from but why not start with a big one?! Shakespeare was very well known in his day, not just for his plays but for his sonnets too. Check them out by downloading them [here](#).



7. **Visit an art gallery or museum** - That's right! Visit an art gallery or museum. Want to see a Picasso? Want to find out more about the history of your local area? Did you know that many of these are completely free to visit? Check out the [MoneySavingExpert website here](#) to find some near you and return to school a marvel in history lessons.

8. **Read the news for ten minutes a day** - What's that you say? Read the news? Simply find a type of news that interests you and read those topics. There are some really cool apps for reading the news for free too. Why not try the Sky News app or the BBC news app?

9. **Write a short story - And why not?** We all have an imagination and an activity like this will have the neurons firing in your brain like it's Mastermind and you're in the final. You could even make an interactive book like this one. If you have access to an app such as [Book Creator](#) you could even publish it online and share it with friends and family for them to enjoy too!



10. **Start a blog - Many people blog, me included!** It's a great way to share your activities and ideas with the world. Many people use it as a place to record their learning. You could use it for all number of different reasons. A good place to start would be to look at some existing blogs on places such as [Wordpress](#) and then start your own on whatever you want. Make sure your parent/carer knows you are doing this - they may want to check what content you're putting out there first. After all, it can be a dangerous world out there!

11. **Take one photograph every day and make a digital scrapbook of your summer -** What a great way to keep a record of your summer holidays and all that you've experienced that's new and exciting over your summer break. Do it easily with your mobile device and then compile them onto whatever tool you like. My favourite is to use an app such as [Pic Collage](#) at the end to bring them all together into one big final image or to put them into an app such as [Quik](#) to make a quick flick-through video to tell the story of my summer.



12. Make a new friend - There are bound to be lots of reasons why you might not want to do this one, but why not give it a go? There will be lots of youth groups in your area where you can meet and make new friends and have a laugh at the same time too. Why don't you get involved and make some new buddies at the same time? You might even learn something new too!

13. Visit your grandparents and make them tea - Unfortunately, my grandparents have sadly passed away, but it's likely yours are still with you. One way you can make their day but also make you feel an enormous sense of achievement is to visit your grandparents and make a bit of a fuss of them. They will love it. You probably will too. Who knows, you might even get a bigger Christmas present. The best gift though will be the one you give them by making them feel special and important by you visiting!





14. Make a fruit pizza and then eat it - Jamie Oliver eat your heart out - ok, well not literally, but this will be a fun way to make a mess and get some fruit inside you too! If you're new to making food, then a fruit pizza is the perfect place to start. [Click here](#) to see how easy it is, then check out other fruity recipes on [this BBC website](#) and make something different next time.

15. Write a letter to someone on paper (getting a reply is magic) - There are lots of ways you could do this. Speak with your languages teacher before the holidays and see if they can link you up with a pen pal scheme. Maybe you're not happy about something in your community - write to your local MP and tell them about it. Why not just send a letter to your grandparents outlining 50 reasons why you think they're great? Everyone loves to receive a letter (unless it's a pesky bill) and you'll feel the same when you get a reply!



16. Make a sand sculpture on the beach - A bit tough unless you live near a beach, I know, but you could always see if you could get hold of some sand. Great fun and even better to do with your mates. See what you can put together and add it to your blog from number 10. Definitely take a photo of it for number 11!

17. Try a new exotic fruit - Ever tried a Kumquat? I have, they're horrible, but I only know that because I've tried one! Why don't you? Take a trip to the supermarket, find the most unusual looking fruit and try it (after you've purchased it!). You might like to look up how to prepare the fruit once you've purchased it too. Imagine trying to eat a coconut raw!

18. Learn to use chopsticks - That's right - amaze your family and friends with your amazing skills on the chopsticks the next time you're at a Chinese restaurant. Imagine the look on their faces when you refuse the knife and fork option and eat your rice with chopsticks. Learning for all the right reasons!

19. Learn to play the ukulele - Ok. So for this one you really are going to have to be quite committed. One, you're going to need a ukulele and also, you're going to have to have a pretty cool parent/carer who isn't going to mind the racket. If you can't do this - why not grab yourself an app-based version of an instrument you're interested in and get the hang of it that way. There are some fantastic additional instruments from around the world such as China that you can add into GarageBand, for example. There are lots of free instrument apps which, whilst not the same as playing it for real, will certainly give you a) some more opportunities for learning and b) the knowledge of whether you would actually like to learn that instrument or not.



20. Make a YouTube summer playlist - We all know that YouTube is a great place to find music, but did you know you can make your own playlists on there? Why not have a go? Make one of your Mum's favourite tracks and one of your favourites too. Then play them back to back, streamed from the internet, for free. Nice!

21. Learn to juggle - Now, this one is not for the faint hearted. Two in one hand. Three in two hands. Four? How far can you go with your juggling skills? Want some tips on how to go about doing it? [Check out this website](#) with some handy tips and great tutorials to get you juggling like a professional in no time.

22. Give up something you really love for a day - That's right - step away from the games console and try out one of the many ideas in this book for that day. You'll feel better for it, whatever you give up, unless it's breathing, don't give up that! Or eating! Or drinking..... ok, you get the idea - only sensible things please! Give it a go though and think about what you learnt. Did you learn anything from it at all? Write about it on your new blog!



23. Try and break a world record - That's right ladies and gentlemen. Try and break a world record. Before you say it's not possible - did that stop [these guys](#) from having a go??!

24. Do a random act of kindness - There are lots of ways you can do this. Here are some ideas you might like to consider:

- a) Send a friend or family member a hand-written note of thanks.
- b) Make a card at home and send it to a friend for no reason.
- c) Cook dinner for your parents.
- d) Cut your neighbour's hedge.
- e) Walk your friend's dog.
- f) Compliment a friend or family member.
- g) Send a friend or family member a small gift anonymously.
- h) Smile a lot.
- i) Treat a friend to the movies for no reason.
- j) Hold the door open for someone.
- k) Give up your seat for someone, not just an elderly person.
- l) Write notes of appreciation at least once a week.
- m) Pick up some rubbish in the road which would otherwise be lying around.
- n) Compliment a friend at school for their excellence.
- o) Help an elderly neighbour carry the rubbish out.
- p) Tell all your family members how much you appreciate them.
- q) Leave a copy of an interesting book on a train/bus.
- r) Send a thank you note to a person who has helped you in the past.



25. Learn to say five things in a random foreign language - Why not try a language right outside of your comfort zone? Why not go for Mandarin??! A tool such as Duolingo is great for this purpose.

26. Learn to make origami birds - Fancy this one? There are some great instructions on how to make different origami birds [on this link](#).

27. Write the sound track of your life if it was a film - There are lots of ways you could do this. You could just write it down, you could make it into a playlist on your music player device. One great way of doing this though and being able to share it with your friends is via YouTube. You might even inspire someone else if you do that!



28. Give up social media - And why not? Try it for a week if you think forever is too scary a prospect. You could always try not using your mobile phone for a week. Can you do it?! Challenge extended!



29. Solve a Rubik's cube - Yes, yes, yes.... you need to have one first in order to be able to do this one. If you haven't got one, you could always try using [this virtual one instead](#)??!



30. Camp in your garden - Give it a go. You don't even need a tent, just some brilliant weather. While you're out there, why not have a good look at the sky above. There are some great apps to use to help you with your astronomy too. Why not look at the free Augmented Reality app '[Night Sky](#)' for a great way to learn the stars. Don't forget to wrap up warm!

31. Give some of your clothes to charity - Not only will you get lots of extra space in your wardrobe, you'll also help fulfil option 24 with a random act of kindness. Check with your parent/carer before you start giving away your clothes!

32. Make a five year plan for your life - Chances are that if you're reading this, you're going to be of school age. Let's imagine you are 11 years old. Within the next 5 years, you will be sitting formal examinations such as your GCSEs. How are you going to succeed in those exams? How are you going to do better than anyone else? What would you like to achieve and what can you do to achieve it? Do you have any non-academic targets? Do you want to play for a sporting team? How will you do that? What will you have to do? Will you have to sacrifice anything? It might be you're even older than that and aged 17 and reading this. Between now and age 22, what would you like to have achieved? How will you do it? Plan it all out and set yourself some clear goals. You'll be amazed at how, by writing them down, the goals turn into reality.

33. Learn how to use the washing machine

- It is not that hard, honest, but do you know how to use it? If you don't know - don't just try to use it. Chances are you'll fail and fill the house with soap suds. Learn from an adult and then try it for yourself by doing a load of family washing (don't just do your own - it's not economical!). You will be a hero in your own household and you'll have learnt a valuable life skill for when you're older!



34. Learn a programming language - There are lots of amazing resources such as Swift Playgrounds for iPad, Codecademy – there are so many you can choose to help you become the next Bill Gates or Steve Jobs. Start today!



35. Make water bombs with paint in and make art! - That sounds as if you're just going to throw paint balloons around your house. No. No. No! Please do not do that. For this activity you'll need some supplies. The process is outlined really clearly on this site here. [Follow their simple guidelines on this website](#) and you'll be away!



36. Ring someone you haven't spoken to for a year - It'll make you feel better and you'll have a great laugh. Life gets so busy at times. While you've got a bit of time over the summer holidays, why don't you catch up with that old friend you've been meaning to say hi to. It's what good friends do.



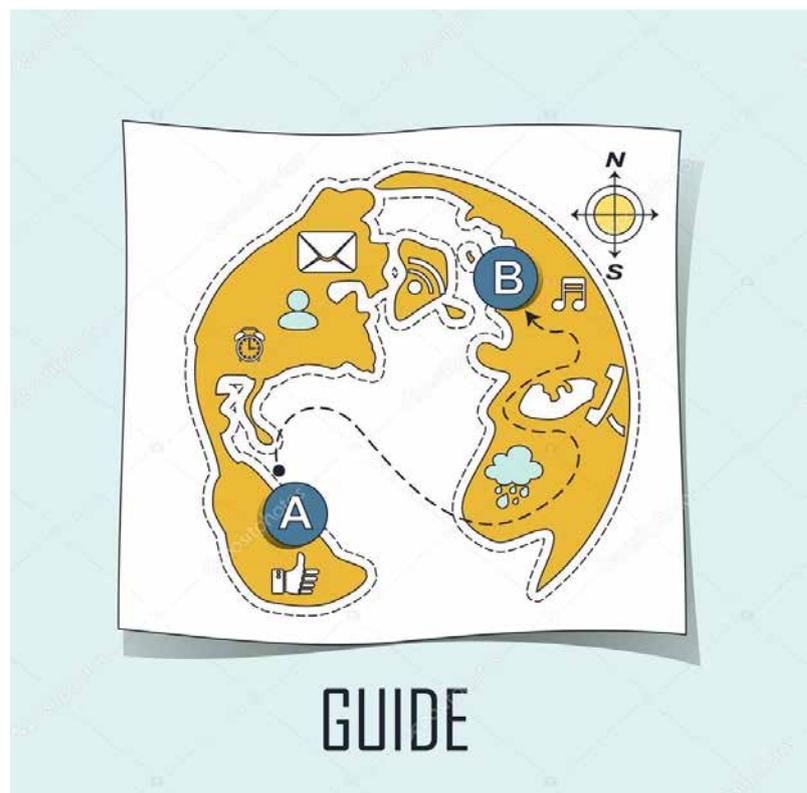
37. Go and buy new pens for September - It's always an exciting thing to get new bits of kit. Why not do this activity at the start of the summer holidays though? The 'Back To School' kit will be fresh in to the shops and you won't have to worry about any of it running out. Many of your friends will leave it to the last minute and end up worrying about remembering to get it sorted. They'll probably not get the pens they wanted either as the demand will have left the most popular ones sold out. Be streets ahead with this activity. You might even like to use the pens to do some sketching in all your free time!

38. Start learning your driving theory learning now - "You what? I'm only 13", I hear you cry.... There's no time like the present and learning these basics can save you a load of time when you're older. You wouldn't want to leave your success to chance either. Sitting your driving test and learning to drive is an expensive business. You wouldn't want to fail!

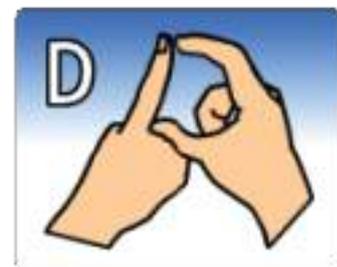
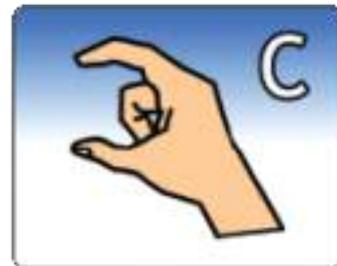


39. **Learn the names for the different types of clouds** - You'll be amazed when you find out. Learning the names of clouds is really useful too as they often indicate the sort of weather that might be coming your way!
40. **Start a new fashion craze (good luck here!)** - Not quite sure how you might do this one, but you can be creative! See what you can come up with! Why not practise creating your new look using Minecraft or with your Lego characters that have been in that box for years and years?!
41. **Design a t-shirt then lino-print it** - Screen printing is relatively easy and can turn tired old clothes into fantastic new designs. Find out how to do it by [visiting this useful guide on the Guardian website](#).
42. **Watch a classic film you have never seen like Gone with the Wind** - There are always lots on over the summer. Why don't you check out the amazing IMDB (Internet Movie Database) website or app and find some Oscar winners. They'll be likely to be very good - they wouldn't have won an Oscar if they weren't!

43. **Go geocaching. Hi-tech treasure hunting!** - Geocaching is an outdoor activity that makes use of the GPS systems built into your phone. For more information on geocaching and what you can do, [visit here](#).



44. Learn the basics of sign language - There are 8.7 million people in the UK who are deaf or who are hard of hearing. Learning sign language can seriously open up your communication channels and make you a more attractive employee in the future. [Find out more here.](#)



45. Think about what you want from next year, and plan how you are going to make that happen - Linked to your 5-year plan (if you have done that, don't bother with this) but make sure you drill down and work out how you're going to be successful and achieve what you want to achieve!

46. Create your own episode of Wallace and Gromit! - Using the brilliant [iMotion HD app](#) (others are available) which you can get for free, you can create your own stop motion animation movies. The only limitation is your mind. Top Tip: Access to Lego can be a real help here!



47. Learn about spaceships!

- Get the free app [Spacecraft 3D from NASA](#) and use this amazing augmented reality app to bring spaceships to life on your iPad and learn all about them, their missions and what they do. It will amaze you and you'll learn lots in the process!



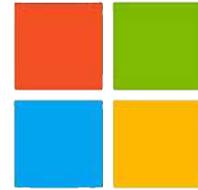
48. **Recreate your own favourite piece of Art** - Whether it's the Mona Lisa or Van Gogh's Flowers, you'll probably have a favourite painting. It might even just be a favourite cartoon character. Why don't you improve your drawing skills by having a go at recreating something yourself? You might need to get some painting/drawing supplies but if you want, you could always look at some alternative materials. The only limitation is your imagination!



49. Research your family tree -

There are lots of ways you can do this. Start by talking with your parents, grandparents (great grandparents?) and finding out about them and how they lived. What jobs they had. Who their relatives were. Where they lived. So forth and so on. Not only is it a great way to spend time with your relatives, you'll learn more about yourself and where you've come from. Definitely one to try out!

50. Develop your skills - There are lots of free training sites such as Coursera or the Khan Academy where you can learn lots of new skills without even needing to leave your house. You can also brush up on your skills using technology to support your learning too from the likes of [Apple](#), [Google](#) and [Microsoft](#). You'll return to school the techno wizard!



Microsoft

51. Learn with augmented reality! - I always find that I learn more with concrete examples. This is particularly helpful when I'm learning about abstract concepts such as how the sun is constructed or how chemical reactions work at a molecular level. These things are difficult to comprehend because we don't often have a frame of reference, enter JigSpace. This amazing free app for iOS will help you learn about hundreds of different things, giving you the opportunity to learn about them in augmented reality. [Download the app for free](#) here and expand your knowledge.

52. Gotta catch 'em all! - Ok, so I don't really mean Pokémon but with this app, you can learn lots and have fun at the same time. The amazing '[Leafsnap](#)' app is a free iPhone app from the Natural History Museum. This app's main feature is that it allows you to take a photo of a leaf from a tree and it will recognise it and tell you what it is! How cool is that?! With over 150 different UK trees in its database, why don't you visit some local parks and see if you can find them all?! The app has more than 2000 hi-res images of leaves, flowers and fruit and has a mini fact file on every species. You can download the app for free by visiting [here](#). (Data charges may be incurred if downloading when not on Wi-Fi).



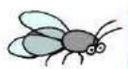
- 53. Sculpt your favourite character from a film** - Arts and crafts build patience and resilience, they also happen to be loads of fun too. A fun activity is to use materials such as plasticine or clay to make your design. If you choose to use clay, you can always then paint your character too which will also be fun. That said, if you do the activity with plasticine you could always then use your model when completing activity 46 which gives ideas for stop-frame animation filming.
- 54. Become a lentil hairdresser!** - That's right, you too can cut hair. This is a really simple, cheap and fun activity to try out. Simply take an old pair of tights and cut them off at the ankle. Fill the bottom with dirt and pop in a handful of lentil seeds. You can get these from the supermarket. Tie off the open end so that you have a nice tight ball of dirt and lentils. Decorate the ball with whatever you want to make a face, perhaps put some pebbles for eyes and use some smaller stones to form a mouth, nose, etc. Then. Place your dirt ball on the windowsill somewhere safe. Spray it daily with water and wait.



- 55. Egg shell planter** - This is a simple activity to do. Similar to idea 54, all you need are some egg shells, a bit of soil and some seeds, such as cress seeds. Simply decorate your egg shells (you can see some ideas in the image above), fill it with some soil, pop the seeds in and wait for them to grow. Why not create a team of the Avengers or your favourite Pokémon or Lego characters for fun?!

(Image source: <https://www.playdoughtoplato.com/egg-head-planters/>)

56. Build a Bug hotel - Another great thing you can do which will not only help your garden grow but also help the environment is to support the insect population in your garden. You can do this by building a simple bug hotel in your garden using everyday items you will be likely to have in and around your house. The simple infographic below shows you how you can go about doing it but don't worry if you don't have all of those items available. Getting a simple empty cardboard box and filling it with some sticks and partitions in between, filled with leaves, cardboard and pebbles should serve the same purpose, i.e. creating a great hospitable environment for bugs to come, hang out and do their amazing work in your garden.



How to make an insect hotel



wildlife
watch



the express way!

What you need:

- hollow plant stems, like bamboo canes
- twigs and sticks
- string

- 1 Collect handfuls of stems, twigs and sticks.
- 2 Tie the bundles quite tightly in two places.
- 3 Post into a hedge/bush or hang in a sheltered place.

the deluxe way!

What you need:

- Small logs or untreated timber
- hollow plant stems, like bamboo canes
- twigs and sticks

An adult to help with tools:

- woodsaw
- nails and hammer or screwdriver and wood screws
- drill and 5mm wood bit

- 1 Make a wooden frame, fixing the wood with screws or nails.
- 2 Fill the frame with stems, twigs and sticks.
- 3 Fix a wire loop to the back of the frame and hang somewhere sheltered.

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

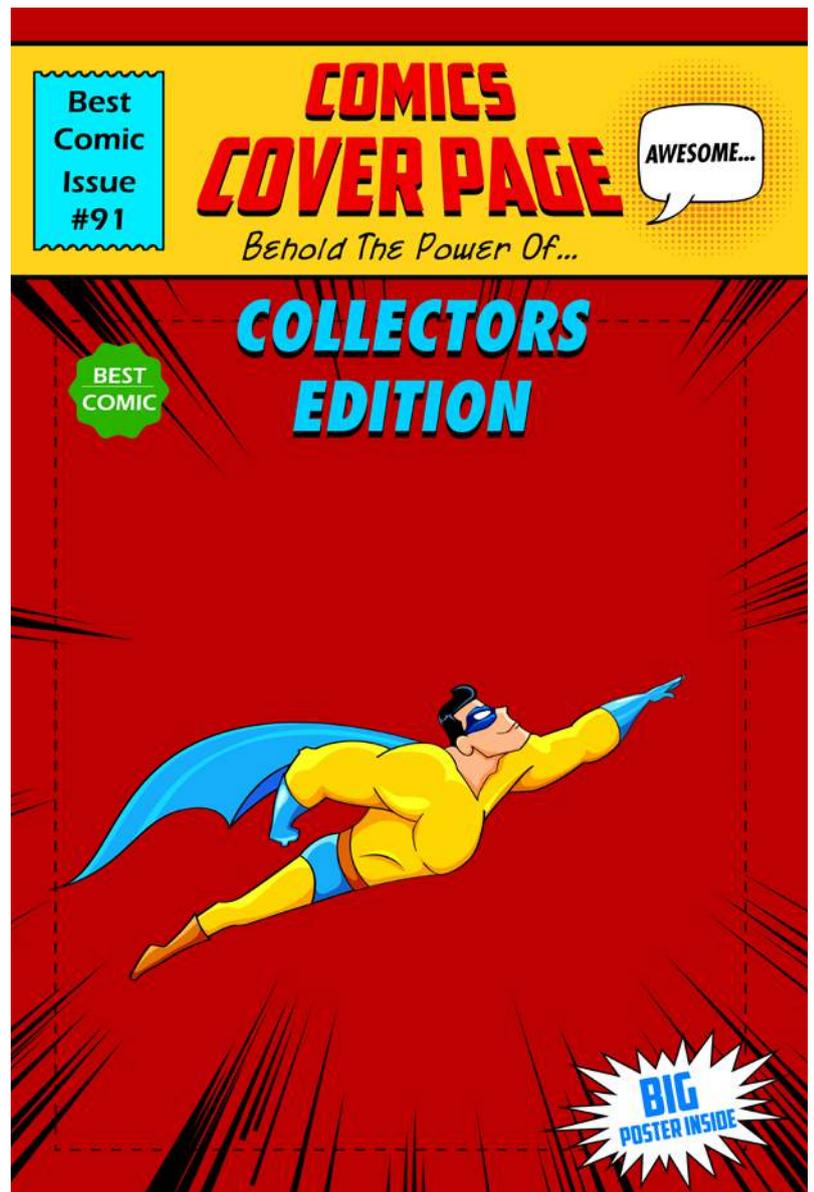
Illustration: Carinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2015

57. Learn how to make your bed and do it! - As Admiral William H. McRaven shared at the 2014 Commencement address at the University of Texas, "If you want to change the world, start off by making your bed... If you make your bed every morning, you will have accomplished the first task of the day. It will give you a small sense of pride, and it will encourage you to do another task and another and another. And by the end of the day, that one task completed, will have turned into many tasks completed. Making your bed will also reinforce the fact that the little things in life matter. If you can't do the little things right, you'll never be able to do the big things right. And if by chance you have a miserable day, you will come home to a bed that is made, that you made. And a made bed gives you encouragement that tomorrow will be better." His now famous speech is inspirational viewing ([view it here](#)) and who doesn't like coming home to their bedroom to find their bed made?



58. Banana ice cream - Now this is a simple thing to do and is so delicious and healthy too! So how do you do it? Well, first of all, it's not actually ice cream. All you have to do is simply freeze a few bananas. Then when frozen, just smash them with a rolling pin or put them in a blender if you have one (please ask an adult before smashing things with rolling pins or using blenders – both can be dangerous!). Nothing else needed! Once you've smashed it all up, scoop it into a bowl and eat it. Boom! And it tastes amazing. No other ingredients required!

59. **Create your own comic** - Comics are amazing and a great way to share your ideas and stories. You can create your own characters or even your own Universe. Forget DC and Marvel, what about your Universe? You see these in lots of stories such as Diary of a Wimpy Kid, why not create your own? You can do it simply on paper and draw it out yourself. There are lots of page templates you can find using a search engine which you can then print out which will give you a framework for you to draw on, or there are plenty of comic creation tools out there such as [Book Creator](#) or [Pixton](#).



60. **Find your own ideas for fun activities to do this Summer** - There are lots of places you can go to find ideas such as the ones shared in this book. One of my go-to places for such things is [Pinterest](#). Free for users (who have to be over 13), this app and website have tonnes of great ideas for activities you can do for little or no money. Other places you can look include the National Trust's '[50 things to do before you're 11¾](#)' - and if you go to your library, the RSPB book, '[365 Outdoor Activities You Have To Try](#)' is full of ideas for you to try out this Summer too.

If you're feeling creative, why not try writing your own little book as suggested in idea 9, like this one? If you do, tweet me at [@ICTEvangelist](#) and [@NetSupportGroup](#) and we'll help you share it to the world!

There is so much you can do to keep yourself occupied during the Summer months. It doesn't have to be a daily dose of Homes Under the Hammer, your gaming console or other things which keep you tied to the couch. You could even try the Couch to 5K scheme. Even at my ripe old age of 44 I've found it to be an amazing way to get myself out and much, much fitter. I am well on my way to getting to the 5K mark although I would hope you'll get there quicker than me!

Here's hoping you have a great summer. Take care, look after yourself and return to school in September refreshed and ready for the new year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Anderson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Anderson 2019



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