

READING – WRITING – SPELLING – ENGLISH – MATHS

# Parents' Newsletter

Kip McGrath Crowborough and Uckfield

## Merry Christmas to all!

From Tamsin Scott, Diane, James, Tamsin M, Kasia -  
❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ and Jacob of course! ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁

Congratulations to everyone on a very successful term!  
We wish you all a well-deserved holiday break, and  
look forward to seeing you all again in January!



## Welcome Aboard James!

James Holiday-Scott has now joined the Kip McGrath team in Crowborough. James is our senior English Specialist. He will be teaching literacy (reading, comprehension, spelling and grammar) and literature and will support students up to and including GCSE. He is a qualified and experienced teacher and also happens to be Tamsin Scott's brother! As a partner in the business, you will find James working at the Centre every day, and he is available any time for a chat about your child's progress and programme.



### Recommend-a-friend

A big Thank You to everyone who has recommended a friend to us over the past few months. If you have not yet had your free lesson please let us know so we can give it to you at the start of the January term.



From next term we will be introducing a different reward for recommendations.

For every student who signs up you will receive a delicious edible or drinkable treat!

## News from the Centre

### 11+ Wake-up Workshops

For those sitting the 11+ in January we are offering Wake-up Workshops in the first and second week of term. This will brush away the post-Christmas cobwebs and give your child another chance to practise and pick up tips before the big day. Contact us on 01892 611599 before the end of term for more details.

- If you have a child who will be sitting the 11+ in 2007 it is now time to consider enrolling them in our 11+ courses for 2006. Rather than leaving it till the last minute, give them the best possible chance of passing by ironing out any problems *this* year. Just one session a week with our specialists will thorough cover all aspects of the exam.

- We now have a good stock of two styles of pencil grip in lots of funky colours – the Stetro and the Start-Right. Please ask at Reception if you wish to buy them – 50p for Stetros and 75p for Start-Rights. They really can make all the difference!

### TERM DATES 2006

**Term Three starts Tues 3 Jan**

*Half term Sun 12 – Sun 19 February*

**Term Four starts Mon 20 Feb**

*Easter Sun 2 Apr – Tues 18 Apr*

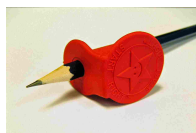
**Term Five starts Wed 19 Apr**

*May 1 is a Bank Holiday*

*Half term Sun 28 May – Sun 4 June*

**Term Six starts Mon 5 June**

*Summer Hols Sun 23 July – Mon 4 Sept*



**Please note:** Term starts Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan. Unless you advise us otherwise, we will automatically book you in for the same time and day of the week as last term.

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# Thinking about extra tuition...

There are various times in a child's life when it makes sense to consider extra help in the form of after-school tuition. Help at some of those key moments can make a big difference to your child's happiness and future success. And anticipating a problem before it arises can only make the solution quicker and easier in the long run. We are experienced in helping children cope with stress of all kinds,

## **So consider tuition at Kip McGrath :**

- **when your child is going to a new school.** If you move house and your child changes schools they may find themselves in a class with unfamiliar faces all around, and that alone is enough to send some kids into a tailspin. Help them through any stressful learning moments by supporting them with weekly sessions at Kip McGrath.
- **when your child moves up from Primary to Secondary school.** You want them to do well in the SATs and to get into the top sets. Cushion them from the pain of the transition and help them find their place in the best possible set by supplementing their learning with weekly Kip sessions in English, Maths or both.
- **when the 11 plus is approaching.** Don't leave it too late. You need a full year of preparation to make sure of success in the 11 plus. Some private tutors charge £50 an hour for 11 plus tuition. We offer across-the-board help in all aspects of learning focussed on 11 plus skills – a better and more long-lasting way of preparing your child for the future – and only £18.75 an hour.
- **when they are entering Year 8.** Year 8 can be a difficult year. Kids might get through Year 7 well, but in Year 8 they can start to fall back, seeming to forget things they knew before. This is partly because some teachers overlook Year 8 as it isn't subject to the pressure of exams of any kind – and consequently many children – especially boys – lose focus. Prevent this from being a permanent problem by bolstering their learning with sessions at Kip McGrath.
- **when a stressful event happens in the family.** Stress can be good or bad, but either way it can impact the child's ability to learn – or your ability to help them at home. The birth of a new brother or sister, an illness, family break-ups, moving house, are all exciting and distracting in different ways, but can all lead to the same result - falling behind at school. Catch up by booking regular sessions at Kip McGrath and make sure your child doesn't lose confidence.
- **if you suspect a learning difficulty.** We can offer invaluable help to children with dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD, mild Asperger's Syndrome and other learning difficulties. The gentle, encouraging teaching and quiet, studious environment we offer is ideal for children who find it hard to concentrate in the noisy, boisterous school environment. A weekly session with Kip McGrath can boost their learning effectiveness at school – many teachers have reported significant improvement in classroom behaviour and work.

Whatever his or her educational needs, your child will love coming to Kip McGrath!  
We're here for you – so give us a call any time to find out how we can help.

Diane Antone, BSc., PGCE, Ed. Cert.

# How to have the best-ever family Christmas

It's that time of year again, when children and adults feel The holiday anticipation and excitement building. Here Are some tips to help you relax and enjoy the change in routine.



## Feeling the pressure

For many of us the festive season can lead to frayed tempers, stress and disappointment. Often we place such a high expectation on having a 'Merry Christmas' we are almost bound to feel let down.

You may remember warm and wonderful times from your childhood and want to provide the same for your children. Or you might be determined to create a happier Christmas for your family than the ones you had. If all doesn't go to plan, you can feel a sense of failure. But there are many things you can do to make the most of this time with your family and have your best-ever Christmas.

## Over-excitable kids

Holiday periods play havoc with your normal routines. Nurseries and schools close and your children are with you for more of The day. Although the holiday season can be very stimulating for children, too much excitement can lead to upsets, particularly for younger children.

With their routine disrupted, your kids may feel out of sorts. But there are things you can do to head off the "What can I do?" and "I'm bored" refrains.



**Plan a seasonal outing** - see a pantomime, or visit Father Christmas in a local shop.

**Invite your children's friends over and arrange for your kids to visit them** - the children will amuse each other and you will gain a free day!

**Have books and videos ready to entertain** - see your local library for Christmas books and videos to loan.

**Let children help with housework and present-wrapping** - they will feel involved and useful and take some of the load off you.

**Remember children's interests** - it's not realistic to expect children to sit through long dinners and adult conversations. Plan some Christmas day activities for the kids.



## Common Christmas hurdles and how to avoid them

- Think about what *you* really want this Christmas. Would you like help with present buying, or to go out for Christmas lunch instead of cooking? All your wishes might not come true, but achieving even one will be a big boost and after all, you deserve to be spoiled too!!

- Plan some activities that make the season fun for you. A champagne breakfast in bed or hanging up your own stocking are great ways to induce Christmas cheer!



- Avoid arguments with your partner by finding a quiet, stress-free time to discuss your plans in advance.

- List all jobs that need to be done and decide who will do what. Card writing, present wrapping and work on the day can all be shared.



- Don't let underlying tensions spoil the celebrations. Speak out about how you feel and clear the air.

Rotate family visits each year. Decide well in advance which in-laws you will visit and who will come to you.

- Admit when you need help. Keep people busy with cooking and table clearing duties or entertaining the children. See guests as extra pairs of hands, not just more people to slave over.

- Be firm about how you do things. Trying to fit in with visitors' routines can be stressful for you and puzzling for children. If possible, keep to your usual meal- and bed- times to reduce tiredness and stress.

***Above all, remember Christmas is meant to be fun!***

Modified from the BBC website.