



## Get ready for the new school year!

**Leading education and learning expert Murray Morrison shares his tips and advice. Murray is also the founder of Tassomai.com the leading online learning program.**

Heading back to school in September has never felt more like a leap into the unknown. Children, families and teachers themselves face uncharted territory. Education expert, Murray Morrison, founder of online home-learning program, Tassomai, tells us a few pointers to help you get ready for the new school year.

After several months of disruption, where we've all had to adapt quickly to unpredictable circumstances, the return to school 'normality' feels like a welcome closing of this chapter. The reality is, however, that when schools do properly go back, much will have changed and things will take a long while to return to business-as-usual.

The time away from the classroom will have had very different effects on different children - some will have flown ahead with lots of stimulation and support; others will

not have been so fortunate if their parents were unable to give as much attention to their schooling, or if they have had to face the loss of loved ones during the pandemic. The job of the schools will initially be to assess the needs of the students and come up with strategies to allow everyone to get back to the same level. Then they will need to make up for a great deal of lost time. Children in years 6, 10 and 12 will particularly feel the squeeze.

Getting ready for a strange new term, I would advise parents to think about those skills and strengths they can instill in their children that will make things easier. Of course, if there has been material sent from the school, then spend time to make sure it's understood and assimilated - but remember that it will certainly be covered again, so don't get too anxious about covering everything exhaustively, especially if it falls far outside your comfort zone.

What would be sensible, though, is to put together an assessment of your own of which things have been covered and which things need revision from the teacher. A little traffic-light list would do, and you can use that to check in again at parents evening and through the coming year.

The real advantage parents can give their children at this point, though, is in the non-academic areas: get them into the good habits that will mean they can get the most out of the compressed teaching they're going to be getting: good reading and listening skills, focus and concentration and - most importantly, organisation and note-taking.

When the teachers are attempting to cover four and a half terms in the space of three, it's the ability to absorb information and practise its recall that will make all the difference.

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