

## **Survival Tactics – Before You Start**

*Taken from “How to Survive Your First Year in Teaching”, written by Sue Cowley*

The months and weeks before you start your first teaching job are an exciting but nervous time. Your mind will probably be full of a combination of questions that you want answered, ideas about lessons you could do with your children and worries about issues like managing behaviour and coping with stress.

Here are a few quick tips to help you cope with the waiting period before your first teaching job begins:

### **Go easy on the planning**

Try not to succumb to the overwhelming temptation to spend the whole summer planning loads of wonderful and exciting schemes of work; although you may believe that you are saving yourself time, any detailed or in-depth planning done at this stage is fairly pointless.

Until you meet your students and get to know them a little, it is hard to anticipate their needs and interests; it is also likely that much of your teaching will be based on schemes of work or textbooks already in use at your school.

If you get the chance to visit your school before you start work, ask about any planning that could be done in advance.

### **Stock up on the fun stuff**

It can be a good idea to hunt around for some cheap or free bits and bobs that will be useful either in your teaching or as part of your reward system.

I’m not suggesting that you spend huge amounts on expensive resources, but keep an eye out for giveaways, promotional offers and in charity shops.

Some of the very best resources are completely free – an empty bird’s nest or a skeleton leaf, for example.

Scan the Internet too for interesting ideas and useful links.

### **Make the most of your holiday**

The best advice of all is to take a long and relaxing holiday before you plunge into the stressful world of the class teacher – whether your finances will be up to this is another matter!