**Muckhart Primary School**

**“Home of Natural Learning”**



**Home Learning Guidance**

**Our Belief:**

At the beginning of session 18-19 we looked carefully at our homework practices and felt that the traditional, formal homework didn’t impact children’s learning in a positive way. Research shows that the impact of children completing formal homework is very low. However, learning at home can have significant immediate and longer term impacts on children in different ways. These include a child’s early learning, later achievements, nurture, resilience, wellbeing, social mobility and skills for life. Supporting parents to help them with their child’s learning at home is therefore “a vital part of improving outcomes for children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds” (Hunt et al, 2011)

The Scottish Government definition of learning at home is “Learning at home is the learning which happens in the home, outdoors or in the community. It can take place through everyday activities that families already do and can overlap with aspects of organised or active learning activities” (Scottish Parental Involvement Officers Network, 2018)

With such busy lives out of school, we felt it more important for children to enjoy developing friendships and having family time after school. That being said, we would still like children to share any learning they have done at home.

We recognise that:

‘Parents are the first and most influential educators of their children.’ (Building the Curriculum 2, 2007) and

‘Parents are key partners in supporting their children’s learning. In schools, staff should help all parents to understand what children are learning, how their work is assessed and how they, as parents, can support their child’s learning.’ (Building the Curriculum 5, A Framework for Assessment, 2010)

We would like parents/carers to be well-informed of the learning focus of their child. We strive to develop critical, creative, curious thinkers and motivate children to develop a lifelong love of learning. We aim to empower parents/carers to support and challenge their child at home and to be a part of their child’s learning journey. We hope that by taking the “work” out of home learning that we promote a positive and encouraging attitude to each child’s learning. It is well evidenced that when children, school and families work together, children’s learning improves. We feel that our Home Learning approach fits better with the ethos and culture of our school as we aim to develop independent, life-long learners.



**Our Teachers**:

* At the beginning of the school year, in August, each child will receive a Home Learning Pack
* We will provide Hints/Tips for supporting children with literacy and numeracy
* We will hold termly curriculum workshops as Family Learning opportunities – the theme to be agreed with parents/carers and children
* We will share examples of home learning on our school website
* At the beginning of term we will send home a “Focus for Learning” information sheet tailored to each child which will outline numeracy, literacy and context areas of learning for the term
* Each child will have a Focus for Learning jotter and we will encourage children to draw, write or research things that are of interest to the child or relevant to their current learning.
* Teachers will encourage children to share their learning with their peers
* Children will always have at least one Home Reader but may also have a chill or challenge book and a library book
* Questions used in class to support literacy are from Aidan Chambers “The Three Sharings” – we will include a copy of these questions in the Home Learning jotter.
* We will also include in the Home Learning jotter things like a 100 Square and any other tools we feel may support the learning at home.

**Our Children:**

* Will take care of their Home Learning Pack. They will bring it daily to school along with their Home Reader
* Can record learning at home in their Home Learning jotter or any other format they choose- they may email or post on Google Classroom (P4-7), they may write or draw their learning. They may choose to complete a powerpoint or poster to share with their peers or bring in photographs to demonstrate their learning
* Will not be rewarded for completing learning at home but will be praised for their effort

**Our parents/carers:**

* Will support their child should they wish to complete Home Learning
* Will encourage their child to use opportunities at home as learning opportunities – for example baking or gardening
* Will engage with the Focus for Learning information sheets that are sent home
* Will encourage their child to become an independent learner



Updated November 2020