

Brydekirk Primary P5-7 Learning at Home Term 3 2020/2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

With Schools being closed again in Scotland to take account of Public Health advice and Scotland's ongoing work to suppress coronavirus (COVID-19), Brydekirk Primary and St Columba's Staff have been working on preparations including this *Learning Pack*, to continue educational provision for your Children.

The aim is to pass on useful information and resources to enable you to support your child(ren) continue their learning, including a General Timetable, physical and online resources and how these can be used. I have evaluated my experiences from the last lockdown of remote teaching, including many different modes, recorded lessons, live lessons etc., in order to continue learning out with school, and have made some revisions to previous approaches. Just like last time, we will do our best to manage and communicate any change, although again patience will be required.

Last time I warned that access to devices, or limitations of Wi-Fi, could impede access to online work and I would like to restate this as it caused difficulties. My own household had these same limitations and difficulties. Our lives were turned upside down when school, and for some Parents and Carers, work was moved into our homes. Other Parents and Carers were working long hours as key workers or some family members were shielding, all of which complicated matters. The health and wellbeing of our Pupils, their families and Staff is first and foremost before any learning can take place. The work that I offer therefore is again going to give options, including in the General Timetable activities for no access to a device or the Internet, please see the parts highlighted red. I am also going to advise a limit of 2 hours of school screen time a day for my class. If Pupils are using a device like a book and doing the majority of the work writing in a jotter, worksheet or piece of paper then I wouldn't include that. Of course, if a Pupil is working away on something productive online, then that time could be extended, but that is something that each Parent/Carer decides. Your children may also be online for other reasons, including staying in touch with their friends and family, which I think is really important in the current circumstances.

Scottish Schools closing again and the thought of your child(ren) learning at home may bring back feelings of worry and /or being overwhelming. Having evaluated my experience of the last time I would advise doing this for your own situation, thinking about what worked, what didn't and how these could be changed. With that in mind read the guidance information, work with your child(ren) and we will endeavour to support you as best we can.

Good luck, best wishes and here's to a happier new year,

Mr Archibald

Dear P5-7,

We are back to learning online and I thought I'd write to you.

This is the second time that we have been asked to do this and I think we have got a better idea of how this can work now. Think back to how it went the last time. What went well and what could be better? For those who were in my class last session, some things will be the same and others will change, hopefully for the better.

Since coronavirus arrived in our world last year, we all learned that you never know what is around the corner. Scientists have developed vaccines that are already being given to people in Scotland which will hopefully help us get back to our daily lives. We therefore need Scientists, Doctors, Nurses and everyone else in the future because we don't know what is going to happen. It is therefore really important that School Pupils take responsibility for their learning, work hard and prepare for a brighter future.

I have included work that you can do without a device or access to the Internet. Should you have access then share your work on Seesaw and join the Teams Meetings: not only does this give me a chance to give you feedback but it also allows you to stay in touch with your friends at school. This is really important at the moment.

We've had two excellent terms at school this session, where you learned and played together so well. I'm really looking forward to getting back to school and seeing you all again when it is safe to do so.

Best wishes, do your best and happy new year,

Mr A

Learning at Home Guide P5-7 Term 3 2020-2021

Aim

Keep Pupils learning, as best as we can, remotely.

Learning Platforms

Most of us now have experience of our online learning platforms: Seesaw and Microsoft Teams. For those who don't, please don't worry you'll pick it up and we're better placed to help you. Both of these are setup for our class to learn safely online and I have endeavoured over the last two terms in school to make sure that these are configured for our Pupils. Seesaw is very efficient at setting, uploading and marking tasks whereas Teams allows us to schedule and conduct online video sessions.

With the benefit of hindsight, I think a useful way to work would be to check work for the day from the weekly timetable set at the start of the week on Seesaw and get set for the morning to complete the literacy and numeracy tasks in jotters, worksheets, with reading books etc. Once the tasks are completed the Pupils could then upload their work to Seesaw in a batch. I've set the tasks for Friday to give a chance to complete any outstanding work from the week. At the moment all classes have been asked to have two Teams Meetings a week (apart from on the first week), please see times in the General Timetable however I understand that these times may not suit everyone. If you cannot make the meeting it's ok.

Tasks have been suggested for other parts of the Curriculum which could be tackled in the afternoon and as suits however these may include going outside or other activities which require supervision and are therefore at the discretion of the Parents and Carers.

Please do not feel that every task must be completed and uploaded to Seesaw. Whilst our online learning platforms keep a record of absolutely everything uploaded, checked or commented, and gives some indication of engagement with the tasks set, it doesn't account for everything else that happens. How Pupils spend their time and apply themselves is where learning takes place, which is the aim, and every family has their own unique set of circumstances. You need to try to make this work as best as it can for your household.

Finally, although we have a small class, the amount of work uploaded to Seesaw last session was at times challenging to keep up with, it is remarkably efficient but still requires a member of Staff to check every piece of work. Please bear this in mind and encourage patience with your child(ren) but know that this was a good challenge to encounter. Having reviewed, evaluated and discussed online learning with other Teachers in Dumfries and Galloway and from across Scotland, the quantity and quality of the work shared on Seesaw at the end of last session was in general very good and demonstrated a level of engagement with learning that was enviable. Again however, please do not scrutinise what I offer your child(ren) with what is offered at other schools, there is little to be gained and there are many better ways to spend your time.

Timetable

I have included a General Timetable which can be used when access issues arise. Most of the learning activities provided here are routine literacy and numeracy class activities that the pupils are familiar with. A weekly timetable will be made from this template and will detail each day's activities. If you have no access then go onto the next step, verse, page from the resources in the Learning Pack and do as you would in class. During the first week before Learning Packs are provided this will limit learning to being mostly online.

Timetabled Tasks

These are mostly practice and consolidation work, which the Pupils have carried out in a similar fashion at school with some adapted for access at home. The idea here is that the children are familiar with these activities and should be able to continue them without too much difficulty in a different location. These are also chosen to continue on learning that was completed last term at school and the Learning Pack has been put together to match. The Pupils may be able to articulate our routine learning activities to you: talking about learning is good for all involved and this will help you to understand what they are doing and hopefully support them. The literacy and numeracy tasks are the priority, and I would advise attempting these in the morning in a routine similar to that at school, where possible. We do 9.00 – 10.40, break, 11.00 – 12.30, lunch although these times are only given as a guide.

The place for Pupils to start is Seesaw Activities. I also send announcements on Seesaw as and when required. Teams will be used to host Meetings and also put information like this.

As a rule of thumb each activity may take anywhere between 5 – 30 minutes. Any shorter requires scrutiny of the work produced and longer is ok so long as the Pupil is happy to keep working on a job and get it finished. Quality should be the first consideration before quantity. Your role as a Parent/Carer is different to being a Teacher although there are many similarities. If any aspect of the timetable is causing difficulties then please tell your child(ren) not to get upset and if necessary get in touch with the School office where we will help. Have high expectations and talk and listen to one another, this is a really important part of learning.

Other Tasks

I have put some weekly tasks in the General Timetable, some from other members of Staff, which can be attempted at any point in the week. Here are some other tasks suggested for other parts of the Curriculum which could be tackled in the afternoon and as suits however these may include going outside, require different knowledge, skills and resources or other activities which require supervision and are therefore at the discretion of the Parents and Carers. That doesn't mean that these subjects are any less important. Projects work well here and are also a great place to use the literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills that Pupils are learning. I would encourage you to attempt something that suits your own situation and that you are comfortable with.

Learning activities are either online, offline or a mixture of both. Online links will be shared onto our Class Teams group. Only our Pupils and Staff have access to this information. Data Protection (GDPR) is once again considered carefully at school and you should exercise the same caution. Online activities will fall into two categories: activities which pupils log into and activities which they don't. For activities that Pupils log into, they should be familiar with the resource and have their usernames and passwords, which they already manage in the Homework Diaries, although get in touch if you have difficulties.

These activities have the advantage that the Teachers can see the work completed and on some websites answers made, which help us to set the next steps.

- iXL - Maths Website <https://uk.ixl.com>
- ReadTheory – Online Comprehension <https://readtheory.org/auth/login>
- Spelling City – Spelling Practice <https://www.spellingcity.com/Log-yourself-in.html>
- Duolingo - Modern Languages <https://www.duolingo.com>

Mixed activities are ones which can be accessed online and then carried out in a jotter or by some other offline means. This work can be shared online by taking a picture or scan and uploading onto Seesaw.

Different parts of the Curriculum

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0934ly5>

Expressive Arts

- <https://www.rsno.org.uk/friday/>
- <https://ukactivekids.com/movecrew/>
- <https://ydance.org/participation/online-dance-classes/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/GetCreativewithMrsC> Get Creative with Mrs C -Tuesday at 10.30am

Health and Wellbeing

- <https://www.activekidsdobetter.co.uk/active-home>
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/thebodycoach1>
- <https://www.gonoodle.com> For fun dances and general Health and Well being

Modern Languages

- <https://www.thefrenchexperiment.com/>
- <https://powerlanguage.courses/forfamilies/french/>

Numeracy

- <https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/year-4/>
- <https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/year-5/>
- <https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/year-6/>

Literacy

- Free Stories from Audible <https://tinyurl.com/y78oht35>

Science

- <https://www.glasgowsciencecentre.org/gsc-at-home/coming-soon>
- https://www.whizzpopbang.com/free-resources/?utm_source=Primary+Schools+Sign+Up+Form&utm_campaign=94fe9d6b72-Remote+learning+to+teachers+w%2Fo+resources&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8562eb2bcf-94fe9d6b72-133199025

Offline activities are everything that doesn't require a website. These are vital as I want Pupils to continue to read, write, draw, measure and continue to develop all of the skills that they are acquiring in life. If it snows then get outside and have fun in the garden or if allowed go sledging. Again, all in good measure however for projects in the afternoon please consider that they'll do many different tasks to complete the work. Projects too can be shared on Seesaw.

Resources

Here is a list of all of the resources in the Learning Packs to be picked up this week:

- Jotters: Daily Writing jotter, Maths jotter, Handwriting jotter, Grammar jotter, French jotter, Comprehension and Writing Skills jotter and Sentence and Word Skills jotter.
- Whiteboards and pens
- Maths Homework (if not taken home)
- Samson Timed Challenge Sheets
- Samson Strip Sheets
- SHM Textbook, Teejay Assessments
- Group Reading books (if not taken home)
- Reading books
- Spelling word list
- paper

You can also choose to pick up their stationery pot which includes pens, pencils etc.

These have all been selected for your child(ren). I did my best with the free choice reading books where I am hoping the Pupils haven't read the ones that I have selected for them. I have put some spare jotters in too for those who may run out over the next few weeks.

For some who left them I have also included Homework Diary jotters, Reading Records, Spelling jotters and other bits and bobs which the Pupils should know what to do with.

We also think it is important for the pupils to have a safe place to communicate. Again, we'll develop an approach to this that is healthy for all involved.

I will share all of this guide on Teams and also on the Blog so that everyone has access. Otherwise, I will update Seesaw every week with a timetable.

Good luck!

Mr A