

# Auchencairn and Palnackie Partnership.



HOME  
LEARNING

The text 'HOME LEARNING' is rendered in a highly decorative, multi-colored font. Each letter is filled with various patterns and colors, including polka dots, stripes, and solid colors. The letters are arranged in two rows: 'HOME' on top and 'LEARNING' below it. The overall style is playful and vibrant.

Supporting learning at home

At school classes spend time each day working on numeracy, mathematics and literacy. Teachers plan lessons based on the knowledge, understanding and skills detailed in the curriculum for excellence. Lessons are differentiated to ensure each pupil receives appropriate support and challenge to reach their potential.

Children's knowledge and understanding and skills in literacy and numeracy can be greatly boosted by help at home. We understand that parents and careers can be reluctant to help, worried that they may confuse their child by teaching them a different method. However we aim to teach children in different ways, understanding what works for one child might not work for another and that by giving them a range of different methods they will be well equipped to select one which works for them.

This booklet details some ideas of easy, fun and inexpensive activities you can try at home to support your child's knowledge, understanding and skills in numeracy and literacy.

The booklet is in two sections:

Section 1: Literacy and numeracy support for P1-3

Section 2 Literacy and numeracy support for P4-7.

Developing your child's literacy and numeracy skills is a team effort and if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns please talk to the class teachers.

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet.

## Section 1 Primary 1-3

### Literacy at Home.

#### Reading

Your child will be reading regularly in class and doing associated tasks and games. Reading books will be sent home. At home, your child will be asked to repeat what has already been taught in school, - as you know, "practice makes perfect".

Ideas to support pupils reading:

- Talk about the title and the picture on the cover.
- Look through the pictures together.
- Ask your child to retell the story to you before you hear it.
- Ask them to describe the characters, their favourite bit and ask them to predict what comes next.
- If they find a word tricky, discuss the meaning together and re-read it together.
- If there is new vocabulary, discuss the meaning and ask them to put it into a sentence of their own.

Reading for enjoyment is vitally important, encouraging your children to read a variety of texts; pictures books, stories, magazines and comic strips; this is beneficial in encouraging engagement and enjoyment in reading.

Joining the library is a great way of exposing children to a variety of literature. Dumfries and Galloway's libraries run story time programmes, book bug sessions, summer reading challenges and special events for children. Details can be found online [www.dumgal.gov.uk/lia](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/lia)

Reading to younger children is also invaluable, they will not only learn about pace and expression but it improves their vocabulary and gives them ideas for writing.

## Primary 1-3

### Literacy at Home

#### Phonics Activities

Your children are working through a phonics programme and younger children will be sent home sounds and blends to practise every week. Encouraging your child to recognise rhymes is an important part of phonological awareness.

Ideas to support phonics:

- Sing rhyming songs (lots of idea on YouTube)
- If rhyming words appear in a text, see if your child can spot them. Don't worry if they can't, but point out that they 'sound the same at the end'
- If you have an iPad, tablet or smartphone there are reasonably priced apps to support phonics e.g. **Phonics Studio, Hairy Letters, Phonics UK.**

#### Spelling

The children will be learning simple spelling patterns and common words, reinforcement of these words at home is extremely beneficial. Using a variety of strategies that are multi-sensory will help to engage your child and provide a fun learning experience.

Ideas to support spelling:

- **Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check.** Look carefully at the word. Say the word. Cover the word. Write the word from memory. Check the word.
- **Playdough Words.** Use playdough to make spelling words
- **Go outside.** Use twigs to make spelling words, write them in chalk or sand.

- **Clap out the syllables** e.g. Wed/nes/day.
- **Fun writing.** Rainbow spelling, silly sentences.
- **Drawing.** Pictures for each word and write word below.

Primary 1-3

### **Literacy at Home**

#### Writing

Your child is working through a writing programme and is given the opportunity to write in different genres throughout the year. To support them at home it is important to encourage your child to write his/her own stories for enjoyment.

Encourage your child to form letters on the line, start a sentence with a capital letter and end it with a full stop. Encourage older children to use more sophisticated vocabulary.

Primary 1-3

### **Numeracy and Maths at Home**

#### Number formation

Please see below diagram to show the correct formation of the digits.

Encourage your children to write the digits out, always starting at the red dot.

Ideas to support number formation & recognition of digits and numbers:

- **Playdough.** Use to make the digits.

- **On paper.** Write digits and number names on paper and work with your child to match them up. Discuss the sound in the number name e.g. the number name four, begins with a 'f' sound.
- **Outdoor Number Hunt** – hunt for digits on car registration plates, bus numbers and door numbers.
- **Games.** Play board games involving numbers e.g. snakes and ladders. Bingo.
- **Dice.** Roll a dice, ask your child to say the number shown quickly.

Understanding the value of numbers.

It is important that your child understands the link between written digits and their value. There are lots of easy and practical ways you can help support their understanding.

Ideas to support value of numbers:

- **Counting.** Ask them to count how many items are in the washing basket.
- **Counting in twos.** Match or pair socks. Count in ones to find out how many pairs there are. Count in twos to find out how many socks there are.
- **Say & Show.** Say or show a number to your child and ask them to collect that number of items e.g. find my 8 sticks.
- **Secret number.** Write numbers 0-10 (extend to 20 or bigger if appropriate). Ask your child to secretly choose a number on the paper. Then ask them some questions to find out what the number is e.g. is it less than 10? Is it between 2 and 5? Is it even. Once you have found the secret number swap over and take a turn.
- **Movement games.** Say or show a number to your child and ask them to do that number of movements e.g. bunny hop 5 times.

Addition and Subtraction.

Children are learning to add and subtract, count forwards and backwards and count up in twos and threes. There are games and practical ways you can help support at home:

- **Number bingo** - Each player writes 6 numbers between 1 and 20 on a card. Call out an addition or a subtraction sum. Each player works out the answer and scores out the number if they have it
- **Noughts and crosses** - Write sums onto bits of paper. Put them upside down. If your child reads one correctly, they can put an x in the grid. Now it's your turn.
- **Snap** - Write sums onto card. Each one will need to be written 4 times. Play snap!
- **Number songs**. Addition and subtractions songs e.g. 5 little monkeys. YouTube has lots of good examples.

Times Tables and Time.

At this stage, the children will be learning to use the 2, 5, and 10 times tables and learning to tell the time. Practising to tell the o'clock and half past times on a clock face would be very helpful.

Regular tables practice would also be very beneficial. The following websites contain some fun ideas for tables and telling the time:

- ❖ [www.primarygames.com/math/timeclock/start.htm](http://www.primarygames.com/math/timeclock/start.htm)
- ❖ [www.primarygames.co.uk](http://www.primarygames.co.uk)
- ❖ [www.mathplayground.com/index\\_multiplication\\_division.html](http://www.mathplayground.com/index_multiplication_division.html)

or if you have access to an iPad/tablet/smartphone try these reasonably priced apps:

Section 2 Primary 4-7

**Literacy at Home**

Reading

Your child will be reading regularly in class and doing associated tasks. Reading books will be sent home and we ask that you hear your children's reading. There are lots of simple tasks you can do to support reading at home.

Ideas to support pupils reading:

- Ask your child to tell what has happened so far in the story.
- Ask them what character is their favourite and why.
- Discuss the author's use of language and style i.e. formal, informal, jovial, serious.
- Predict what will happen next.
- Make up titles for chapters that reflect what they read.
- If there is new vocabulary, encourage them to look it up and discuss the meaning.

Reading for enjoyment is vitally important, encouraging your children to read a variety of texts; stories, magazines, comic strips and information leaflets; this is beneficial in encouraging engagement and enjoyment in reading.

Joining the library is a great way of exposing children to a variety of literature. They also have a free online library app; **Borrow Box** with a children's section for eBooks and audio books. Details can be found online [www.dumgal.gov.uk/eBooks](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/eBooks)

Primary 4-7

### Literacy at Home

#### Spelling

The children will be learning spelling patterns and increasingly complex words, reinforcement of these words at home is extremely beneficial. Using a variety of strategies to engage your child will help them improve spelling confidence.

Ideas to support spelling:



- **Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check.** Look carefully at the word. Say the word. Cover the word. Write the word from memory. Check the word.
- **Digital Digits.** Type up spelling words on computer using different fonts.
- **Rainbow words.** Write out words in rainbow colours.
- **Play spelling games.** Play hangman together, taking turns to choose a spelling word.
- **Digital puzzles.** Make online word searches and puzzles using these website:  
<https://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/criss-cross> and  
<http://www.teachersdirect.co.uk/resources/wordsearches/wordsearch-maker.aspx>

## Writing

Your child is working through a writing programme and is given the opportunity to write in range of genres for a variety of purposes.

To support them at home it is important to encourage your child to write his/her own stories and poems for enjoyment or to help you with shopping lists or writing thank you letters or postcards. Encourage them to use cursive handwriting, check their punctuation and include sophisticated language.

Primary 4-7

## Numeracy and Maths at Home

### Times Tables

Regular tables practice continues to be invaluable, there are lots of websites with games they can play.

- ❖ [www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button](http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button)
- ❖ [www.mathplayground.com/index\\_multiplication\\_division.html](http://www.mathplayground.com/index_multiplication_division.html)
- ❖ [www.bbc.co.uk/teach/supermovers/times-table-collection](http://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/supermovers/times-table-collection)

## Money

Encourage your child to manage his/her money, budget, open a savings account or calculate change and interest. Making it real can often help children to understand concepts such as percentages and decimals.

Ideas to support money and budgeting:

- **Supermarket Maths.** Ask children to add up how much items will cost before you get to the till.
- **Paying for items.** Encourage children to pay for items in the shop. What coins or notes will they need and how much change?
- **Percentage Calculation.** Ask they children how much something will cost if there is money off e.g. 25% of £20 coat, how much is it?

## Time and Measure.

Being able to tell the time on an analogue clock (clock face) and in a digital format is an important skill and requires lots of practice.

Encourage your child to tell you the time regularly, wear a watch and when possible give them responsibility for managing their time.

Any opportunities you can provide for real life measure would be great at reinforcing learning. This might include baking, cooking or construction tasks at home. Ask your child about the unit or measure, encourage accuracy and double checking.