



Homework

Recently we, as a staff, have been reviewing research into Homework and the impact it has on our learners. Research by the Education Endowment Foundation (Learning and Teaching Toolkit International Research) and John Hattie have concluded that when homework is used as a short and focused intervention it can be effective in improving students' attainment, but this is limited for primary age learners and there is more benefit for Secondary aged pupils.

When looking at John Hattie's Visible Learning extensive research into Influences on Achievement, homework ranks as 94th out of 150 as having a positive impact on the learner's educational journey and attainment.

We appreciate that everyone has busy lives and our children attend many clubs and events during the school week, making it difficult, and often challenging, to fit in homework and this is evident from the 62% average return rate we have on homework tasks, with some classes being as low as 30%.

We do not want to stop homework but rather we want the tasks we set to be meaningful, enjoyable and develop skills using the valuable support that you provide them with at home. We want you to have clarity of what will be sent home and give you flexibility with timings, allowing you to fit homework around your home life.

We have compiled a list of the Homework tasks that will be sent home:

P1-3	P4-7
Weekly reading	Reading for enjoyment (P5-7)
Preparation for mini talks (2 per year)	Reading preparation (P5)
Preparation for Scots Poem	Preparation for solo talks (2 per year, 1 of which will be P6 R. Thomson)
Skills based topic related projects (max. 3 per year)	Skills based topic related projects (max. 3 per year, 1 of which will be digital learning)
	Preparation for Scots poem
	Burns Supper Presentation (P7)

- At times throughout the session P5-7 teachers will set Sumdog Challenges in Numeracy & Spelling which will be an optional task.
- Pupils who receive additional support for learning may have personalised homework as agreed at Team Around the Child (TAC meetings) and included in their Child's Plan.
- In partnership with the class teacher and parents, some learners may benefit from a short block of focussed homework which will be mutually agreed.

- Numeracy Bookmarks will also be sent home and parents/carers will be able to use these to support numeracy and inform you what your child will be covering in class.

Reporting to Parents/Carers

When reporting to Parents/carers about their child's progress we follow guidelines set out in the following documents:

Curriculum for Excellence: Building the Curriculum 5

Scottish Government: Statement for Practitioners 2016

Education Scotland: Reporting to Parents and Carers

East Ayrshire Council: Planning Assessment Moderation and Reporting Framework 2019

Approaches to reporting take many different forms and we always ensure that it is regular, meaningful, purposeful and on-going throughout the academic year. At Dunlop we have the following activities:

Reporting activities for individual learners	Reporting activities for group/class/school
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning conversations-pupil & teacher, pupil & pupil • Learners' reflections on their learning • E-portfolios(P5-7) • Team Around the Child meetings with pupils involved • Shared Learning homework tasks • Ongoing feedback in class-oral & written • Use of 'Brilliant Blue' and 'Green for Growth' in jotters • Formal written report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assembly presentations • Open Hour twice a year • School Show • Wall displays • Glow blogs • Class showcase events • Social media/Twitter • Parent Council Meetings • Pupil Council Meetings • Termly learning targets on Blog • Teams (P4-7)

We know that parents value on-going information about their child's progress instead of lengthy end of year reports which may leave little time or information to help them support their child's learning. (Education Scotland: Reporting to Parents and Carers- Guidance for Schools & ELC Settings)

We value the time we spend talking with parents/carers about their child's progress, achievements and next steps and can convey more information through quality dialogue with yourselves than in lengthy written report that takes teachers approximately 33-45

hours per class to complete, in turn, reducing time for planning of quality learning & teaching and school development work across the session.

As such, we are proposing to increase Parents Evenings to three times per year, still with 10 minute appointment times, and produce a shortened final written report with clear reporting of levels for each of Reading, Writing, Listening & Talking and Numeracy, including a statement of your child's progress towards targets and National Levels using the phrases: exceeding, on track, making progress or requiring support. There will also be a personalised final comment which will reflect your child's journey through the year, highlighting their strengths across a variety of curricular areas and in the life of the school.

We really appreciate the very positive response our homework and reporting proposals received at the recent Parent Council Meeting and the dialogue that took place around some of the issues/concerns that were raised on the PC Facebook Page.

Many thanks