



Home Learning - A Guide for Families

Updated January 2021

We thought it would be useful to share our updated guidelines around home learning in January 2021, which may help as we move together into this unexpected chapter. We did not imagine we would find ourselves back to home learning again at this time, and we appreciate that everyone in our school community will have varying pressures on them. Nevertheless, we aim to work in partnership with you to allow exciting and motivating learning opportunities to continue for our children beyond the school building.

The Distance Learning section on the school website:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Carolside/helpful-documents/distance-learning/> has all the advice you need to engage with distance learning, including what to do if you forget your Glow username and password.

All pupils will access their learning through Google Classroom. This is a change from last time, when P1 and P2 used class blogs.

All children have been issued with their Glow username and password. Please visit <https://glow.rmunify.com/> and enter these details in order to find your child's Classroom. Mr. McLachlan made reference to some helpful links in his newsletter, and there are also help sheets on the Distance Learning section of the website. We hope these will help you to navigate your way around Google Classroom at home.

If you do not have access to a device such as a laptop, computer or tablet, please get in touch and we will endeavour to send one home. We are aware that many adults will be working at home and therefore devices will be shared in the household. Please note that while some tasks will be online, the children do not require computer access for the whole day.



What to expect

- Teachers will assign tasks for your child from Monday to Friday. These tasks will be available for you to access by 9:30am each morning.
- Teachers will now take a register each day via the Google Classroom. This is as simple as ticking a box when your child logs on, and will help us to monitor engagement. The register will be available all day, as we know people will complete the work at different times over the course of a day.
- Pupils will be given one literacy task and one numeracy task each day. There will also be a weekly ICT task and a weekly PE task assigned, as well as an opportunity to learn in another area of the curriculum.
- The teacher will be available online around 9:30am in the morning to answer any questions about the tasks, and will check in on progress and offer remote support in the afternoon.
- Live engagement: A new way to engage with the teacher will be through live video calls using **Google Meet**. The teacher will be available to chat to their class at least 3 times per week, and the link to these meetings

along with the times will be posted on the Google Classroom. The purpose of these Google Meets is to provide pastoral support, to ask and answer questions about the work, to check progress with the pupils.

- There is a comments function on Google Classroom. Please note that the purpose of this function is to ask and answer questions about the tasks, and this should **not** be used as a chat function.
- The teacher may post some tasks with different levels of challenge. Please help your child to choose which level of challenge they would like to try for that particular task.
- We anticipate that it may not always be your child's regular class teacher who posts tasks. This may be for a number of reasons, for example, some teachers will be working in the hub supporting children of key workers. In the event of your child's class teacher becoming unwell, or on days where your usual class teacher is working in the hub, we will try our best to minimise disruption by another teacher posting tasks on the site. Teachers are working closely together in their stages to plan for this.

General Tips for Enjoyable Shared Learning

- Try to keep daily routines consistent as far as possible so the children know what to expect- for example, getting up and dressed, work time, meal times and bedtime.
- Making a timetable with your child could be a good way to establish routines on a day-to-day basis, so they know what is going to happen. Your child might enjoy helping to do this in the morning.
- Build in some time to exercise each day, even if you are unable to leave the house. The teacher may assign a physical task, or online sessions such as Cosmic Kids, Joe Wicks Body Coach or Go Noodle as these are great ways to get children moving indoors.
- Find learning experiences in ordinary activities! Remember, spending time with you learning how to bake or cook a meal, exploring nature or planting in the garden, helping you with tasks around the house and chatting to you about how they feel are all just as valuable as more formal learning experiences.
- Look after their mental health too! Give them plenty of time to play and relax. Talk to your child about what is going on, why they are not at school, and give them time to ask questions. On our website we have social stories that can be used to help explain Coronavirus and alleviate any worries that they may have.

Important: Please remember that although school has closed in the traditional sense for the time being, we are still working together as a community and we are here for you! Get in touch if you need anything at all, learning or otherwise, and we will do our best to help.

