

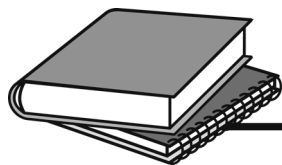
S1 English



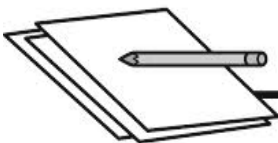
Advice for Parents




**KEEP
CALM
AND
STUDY
ENGLISH**



English



Writing

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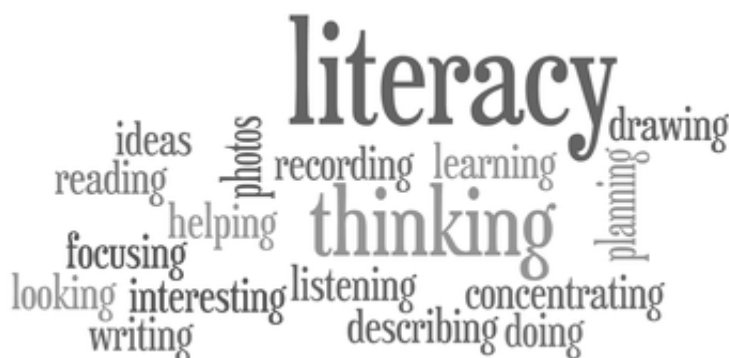
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English and Literacy

The development of literacy skills (Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, Viewing) plays an important role in all learning. Pupils develop and extend their literacy skills when they have the opportunity to:

- Reflect on their own experiences, ideas, emotions and values.
- Communicate, collaborate and build relationships with others.
- Reflect on and explain their literacy and thinking skills, using feedback to help them improve and sensitively provide useful feedback for others
- Engage with and create a whole range of texts in different media, making appropriate, purposeful use of old and new media.
- Develop an understanding of what is special, vibrant and valuable about their own and other cultures and their languages
- Explore the richness and variety of language, how it can affect them, and the wide range of ways in which they and others can be creative
- Extend and enrich their vocabulary through listening, talking, viewing and reading.

The opportunity for these will be provided during your child's time in the English and Literacy Department. Pupils in each class will study texts tailored to their needs. Additional support will be provided in the class through the use of co-operative teaching, by working in conjunction with the Support for Learning Department and by using differentiated resources.



S1 Course

August -October

All classes will work on a variety of activities which will create opportunities for pupils to develop skills in Personal and Creative Writing, listening for information, discussion and talk. They will also be introduced to some short passages for close reading.

October - Christmas

Pupils will participate in a Creative Writing unit which supports a range of writing skills such as Description through the Senses, Creating Characters, Using Imagery and Developing Setting and Action.

January – April

Pupils will study a text and develop their skills in understanding, analysis and evaluation as well as developing their understanding of the writer's craft. They will also complete assessments in Listening and Talking at the discretion of their teacher.

April – June

Pupils will study a text and reflect on the writer's ideas and craft. Through this they will continue to develop skills in analysis, evaluation and understanding and will write critically on the text. Pupils will also develop their close reading skills by summarising and analysing passages issued in class.



First Year Homework Programme

The encouragement of homework is a vital part of the philosophy of the school. Pupils are asked to work at home from First Year so that they develop good habits and homework becomes a natural part of their working week.

It is of particular importance that your child develops good habits in private reading (See below)

The range of important homework tasks related to reading, writing and research will include:

- Developing private reading
- Language work
- Individual research on a topic.
- Preparation for solo talk
- Planning.
- Note- taking.
- Practice in different forms of writing.
- Listening activities.
- Research



This is not intended to be a definitive list. Other types of homework may be set by class teachers in relation to particular topics.

The department welcomes your support and co-operation in the completion of all homework tasks.

Private Reading in First Year

Private reading is the most important and effective way by which your child can increase the literacy skills which lie at the heart of Curriculum for Excellence, and allow him or her to engage fully in society and in learning.

During the course of the year, pupils, therefore, are expected to develop their own private reading. To do this effectively we expect your child to read EVERY night for at least 20 minutes as part of his/her homework. This is in addition to other forms of homework.

English teachers will regularly monitor pupils' reading and will expect your child to be able to talk and write about it.

As well as promoting reading within a classroom context, the department is supported very effectively by Mrs Baird, the school librarian. Mrs Baird teaches a library literacy course to all S1 pupils. This establishes a positive environment where pupils are comfortable and confident in selecting reading materials. Any pupil who is a reluctant reader or is unsure about what to read need only speak to Mrs Baird who will be able to suggest a range of titles suitable for the individual pupil.

In addition, private reading is actively promoted by:

- Personalised reading plans
- Book displays
- Recommendations
- Book Club
- Our S2 Reading Champions
- Senior Pupil Paired Readers



How You Can Help

Your support in learning is important if your child is to achieve his/her full potential. You can help your child develop their language and literacy skills by:

- Be a good role model for reading whenever possible.
- Ensuring your child has a book for reading in class
- Talking to your child about his/her reading
- Encouraging private reading, perhaps including appropriate articles from a quality newspaper
- Discussing the text being studied in class
- Making sure your child has pens, pencils, paper (lined/blank), a folder, a dictionary and a place to write and keep their materials.
- Ensuring homework is done on time
- Checking and discussing your child's written work

**READING
FESTIVAL
THURSDAY 19TH
SEPTEMBER....**



Further Resources:

Your own experience and the benefits gained from Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking are your greatest resources.

On Twitter: @stninianseng @stninianslib

- English Department blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/SNHEnglishWebsite/
- School Library blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/LibraryWebsite/
- School blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/StNinians/

- Your local library ercultureandleisure.org/libraries
- Scottish Book Trust scottishbooktrust.com
- BBC BiteSize bbc.com/bitesize
- Dyslexia Scotland dyslexiascotland.org.uk
- Barrington Stoke barringtonstoke.co.uk/
- CALL Scotland callscotland.org.uk/home/

Education Scotland Literacy Benchmarks:

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/LiteracyEnglishBenchmarks.pdf>



Gospel Reflection and Prayer

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"

***Jesus read and spoke often. He was a man of many words who also listened to people. He told stories, gave sermons and asked challenging questions of those in power. He spoke up for the poor and marginalised. He knew his history, laws, songs, prayers and poetry. He even wrote in the sand, when no other tools were available.
His entire life is a Word of Love.***

Loving God,

Open my heart that it may Listen to Your Word.

Open my mind that it may Read Your Will.

Open my mouth that it may Speak Your Truth.

Guide my hands that they may Write with Your Love.

Saint Ninian, pray for me.

