



## Netherlee Primary School and Nursery Class

### Home Learning Policy

'Learning at home can happen through a range of events including play, leisure activities, fun events, sports, trips, cultural or volunteering experiences and everyday family life. It can also happen through curriculum related activities, homework, reading and sharing books. Activities for learning at home can be specifically designed to enable parents to engage in their child's learning and build upon the learning from school or early learning and childcare setting'.

*Engaging Parents and Families (March 2019)*

At Netherlee Primary School and Nursery Class, we very much value the views and opinions of all our stakeholders. Following a whole school survey with parents and carers and discussions with our pupils and teachers, we have now reviewed our approaches to home learning.

As you may know, home learning is not mandatory in Scotland and, although we would encourage all of our children to complete their home learning activities, it is important to note that we cannot enforce this.

#### Aims

- To ensure home learning activities are meaningful, relevant and manageable and include opportunities for our children to **consolidate the previous learning which has taken place in class**.
- For our children to feel a sense of achievement and to feel happy and relaxed when completing tasks. This is why it is important that activities match pupil needs and are achievable for them, whilst being appropriately challenging.
- To provide ongoing opportunities for parents and carers to be aware and knowledgeable about the **learning that has previously taken place** in class, therefore enabling them to support and discuss learning and achievement with their child, on an ongoing basis.
- To provide a variety of carefully considered learning opportunities, **which are appropriately challenging**, and meet the needs of the children in their class.
- To ensure a **consistent approach** across the school to support families with more than one child.
- To encourage children to **develop their independence** and be responsible for their own learning, where possible.
- To **increase motivation** for children to fully engage in home learning.
- To provide home learning tasks that are **linked to previous learning from a range of curricular areas and learning contexts**.

#### Home Learning Grids

A Home Learning Grid has been designed to build upon the concepts and skills that our pupils have been learning in school.

The Home Learning Grid is distributed at the start of each month and provides a wide variety of learning opportunities which can be completed, in any order and at any time, over the course of a calendar month. Each month there will be a total of 20 activities on the Learning Grid. These will include Literacy and Numeracy & Mathematics tasks, which will support consolidation of recent learning in these areas and also Health and Wellbeing tasks, alongside life skills, creative activities and outdoor learning opportunities. The activities on the grid are carefully considered to encourage many relaxed, positive family interactions whilst also providing pupils with tasks that support learning experiences from across the curriculum. The grid will include five blank



squares, which will provide opportunities for pupil choice and for them to undertake activities which are of particular interest to them eg. a hobby, an interest, a sport, drawing, etc. This will provide flexibility within their learning in areas of their choosing. Pupils should write the title of the activity they have undertaken on the blank square in the grid eg. flew a kite or made a card for my new baby cousin. We would ask that children indicate, by crossing out the activity on the Home Learning Grid, all the activities they have undertaken throughout the month. We would also ask parents and carers to sign the grid so that when it is brought back into school for Feedback Friday, it can be stuck into the child's Home Learning jotter as evidence of the work completed.

### Core Learning Tasks

The Home Learning Grid will include **eight core learning tasks**, which can again be completed at any time throughout the month. These core tasks will consist of **four Literacy** and **four Numeracy / Mathematics tasks** and teachers may also wish to include other core tasks in specific curricular areas each month. Core tasks will be indicated on the grid by the word 'CORE' and will consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding in these subjects. **There is an expectation that all eight core tasks should be completed by all children each month. This would be the minimum expectation for the amount of home learning completed, however, we would very much encourage our children to complete approximately 16 tasks per month (eight core and 8 of their choice).**

### Primarys 1 and 2

We recognise that our younger learners do naturally require a level of support from adults at home when completing some home learning tasks. Our children are learning the skills of reading, writing and counting and it is therefore important that phonics, reading books and numeracy will continue to be a focus for homework tasks alongside games and creative activities. The Home Learning Grid for our P1 and P2 children **will sometimes feature core options that would benefit from taking place on a nightly basis** eg. phonics, reading together, number formation as these will allow for regular consolidation and practice in these areas. Class teachers will provide specific information regarding reading tasks, which will be sent home.

### Primarys 3 to 7

As children get older, home learning provides a variety of opportunities to develop the skills of independent learning, whilst also harnessing good study habits. Research topics provide excellent opportunities for children to develop these important skills. Our P3-7 children will therefore have a **home learning project to work on twice a school year** which will relate to a learning context in class eg. The Rainforest. When these are being undertaken, other **home learning grids will not be issued for that month**. However, as the benefits of reading alone, reading together and reading for pleasure were recognised by all stakeholders, **reading books will continue to be sent home and reading for pleasure will still be strongly encouraged**. Class teachers will provide specific information regarding group reading tasks, which will be sent home or discussed with the children in class.

### All Learners - Google Classroom

The benefits of digital technology are widely acknowledged and understood by all both as a learning tool and as a skill for life and work. All pupils will therefore be required to **log into their Google Classroom each month in order to complete four of their learning tasks (two core and two other)**. This could be for a variety of reasons eg. to play an online game, to access a link to a video clip and then answer questions about this, listen to some music and then draw a picture of what has been visualised. The monthly Home Learning Grid will be sent home as a hard copy each month and will also be available through Google Classroom. The links to learning games and websites will be available by accessing the online Home Learning Grid. We would recommend that Google Classroom is accessed every week by all pupils. At that start of each month, children



will be provided with any additional resources required. In order to continue to be an environmentally friendly school, most worksheets and other similar resources, will be available online via Google Classroom.

### How long Learners should be engaged in Home Learning

Whilst bearing in mind that every child and task is different, we have provided below some loose guidance on the approximate length of time that we suggest would be appropriate for a homework session to last at the various stages.

- Primaries 1, 2 and 3: **approximately** 15 minutes
- Primaries 4 and 5: **approximately** 20 minutes
- Primaries 6 and 7: **approximately** 30 minutes

### Feedback Friday

All stakeholders recognise the importance of providing meaningful feedback to pupils about the learning that has been undertaken at home. There will therefore be considerable time set aside for discussion and feedback and this will **take place in the morning on the last Friday of every month**. The children can take this time, with their peers and class teacher, to talk about the tasks they have undertaken and to share their home learning. A variety of methods will be used to provide feedback such as: verbally through discussion, in written form, peer and self-assessment and the use of stickers or stampers from the teacher. This time will be really valuable and will provide opportunities for the children to be fully involved in the feedback process and to learn from one another as well as their teacher.

### Home Learning Jotters

To ensure we continue to consider the *Cost of the School Day*, Home Learning jotters will be provided for all children as a means of recording, gathering and evidencing their work. The children should use the jotters to detail all learning that has taken place at home and as this will be a record of **all home learning produced**. The jotter must be brought into school for the Friday Feedback session. **These jotters will form the basis of the Feedback Friday time.**

### What Parents Can Do To Support Your Child with Home Learning

We recognise that parents have a key role to play in supporting their child's home learning. Encouraging and supporting your child with their home learning tasks can make a big difference. By sharing an interest in the activities, and regularly talking about them, your child will build confidence and will find it easier to create positive, life-long habits as well as develop skills as an independent learner. You can also support your child at home by:

- Providing a quiet, tidy and calm place for them to engage in home learning.
- Spend time regularly talking about the learning to be undertaken so that there is a shared understanding.
- Giving time for your child to work at a pace that is appropriate to them. Sometimes small chunking of time works very well eg. 5 minutes at a time and a timer can be used to help aid concentration.
- Choosing a time of day that suits family life so that tasks are not rushed or create household stress.
- Provide lots of encouragement and praise as this greatly supports children's motivation, confidence and learning.
- Please always remember that we are here to help. We do not wish for Home learning to be a struggle for children or parents. Parents should get in touch at any time if they have any questions or concerns, no matter how big or small, or if they find that their child does not understand a particular activity, or if parents are looking for advice and guidance on any aspect of supporting their child to engage in home learning.



## Netherlee Primary School Sample Home Learning Grid - Primary X

The activities on this grid may be completed, in any order, over the course of this month. There are some blank squares which are activities of your own choosing. Please cross out the activities you have completed. We would request that you **complete all the core learning tasks**. You will need to login to your Google Classroom to access the digital learning links. **If you have forgotten your password or it is not giving you access, please let your teacher know straight away and they will help you.** Please remember to use your Home Learning Jotter to record all the work you have completed this month and don't forget to bring this jotter into school for Feedback Friday time.

<b>Literacy</b>	<b>Reading- CORE</b> Class reading book- your teacher will tell you what to read in preparation for class either verbally or on Google Classroom.	<b>Reading- CORE</b> Try to read every day or night. You will have the opportunity to share what you have been reading during Feedback Friday.	<b>Talking &amp; Listening- CORE</b> Interview a family member or friend about something that interests them. Ask at least 3 questions. Write the questions and answers in your jotter.	<b>Online Literacy Games- CORE</b> <a href="#">Phonics finder</a> <a href="#">spooky spellings</a> <a href="#">topmarks</a>	<b>Writing Challenge</b> Click the link. Use your jotter for writing and any other tasks you choose to complete. <a href="#">Beanstalk</a>
<b>Numeracy</b>	<b>Sumdog- CORE</b> Log in to practise your numeracy skills. <a href="#">sumdog</a>	<b>3D Objects- CORE</b> Look for 3D objects around your house. Try to find at least 3 and write down their names. For an extra challenge, you could draw them and write down their properties.	<b>Number Bonds- CORE</b> Practise your number bonds to 20. You can choose how you complete this activity. You could ask someone at home to quiz you or you could complete the attached worksheet.	<b>Time- CORE</b> 1. Write the days of the week in order 2. Write the months of the year in order. 3. Write the seasons in order.	<b>Research</b> Research a famous mathematician. You might want to write some notes to share with the class.
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>	Go for a walk in your local area and see how many signs of autumn you can spot. You might choose to write these down.	Practise completing a task you find challenging. This might include tying your tie or your shoelaces. Alternatively you could complete some jobs around the house.	<b>Art-</b> Have a go at drawing autumn leaves or a tree by clicking on one of the links below. <a href="#">leaves</a> <a href="#">tree</a>	Learn a nursery rhyme you are not familiar with or a poem. Use the Internet or ask someone at home if they have a favourite.	Take 10 minutes to do something that you enjoy...read, draw, do a jigsaw, play with Lego, listen to music or ride your bike. These are just a few suggestions.
<b>Pupil Choice</b>	<b>My Diary</b>	<b>My Diary</b>	<b>My Diary</b>	<b>My Diary</b>	<b>My Diary</b>

Parent/Carer's signature:



**NETHERLEE VISION: Our Netherlee Community Working With and For Our Children**



## Friday Feedback Dates for Session 2023-2024

<b>Term 1</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Home Learning Grid – date issued</b>	<b>Feedback Friday dates</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> September	29 <sup>th</sup> September
2 <sup>nd</sup> October	27 <sup>th</sup> October
30 <sup>th</sup> October (Research Topic P3-7)	24 <sup>th</sup> November
27 <sup>th</sup> November	15 <sup>th</sup> December (3 weeks)
<b>Term 2</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Home Learning Grid – date issued</b>	<b>Feedback Friday dates</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> January	26 <sup>th</sup> January (2 weeks)
29 <sup>th</sup> January	23 <sup>rd</sup> February
26 <sup>th</sup> February (Research Topic P3-7)	22 <sup>nd</sup> March
<b>Term 3</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Home Learning Grid – date issued</b>	<b>Feedback Friday dates</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> April	26 <sup>th</sup> April (2 weeks)
29 <sup>th</sup> April	23 <sup>rd</sup> May (Thursday)

