

Auchterellon Primary School

Home Learning Policy



There are many different ways teachers and parents can work together to provide a sound education for their children. Home learning is one of those ways. Parents can help by

- Listening to their children's reading
- Showing interest in the days activities
- Providing the appropriate setting if written work is required
- Being supportive and interested in work brought home or questions asked by the children

Home learning is valuable for a number of reasons

- Consolidation of work done in school
- An opportunity for parental involvement with their child
- A good habit to adopt
- Study at home is necessary for success in SCE or other examinations. If studying at home has not become a habit by the time a child leaves primary school he/she may experience difficulties in adapting to life at the Academy.

Home learning is a means of focussing parent's interest in their child's education. It should be seen in a positive light. It should be a short but productive period for the parent and child to discuss an area of interest.

At Auchterellon School we have agreed that Parents will receive a letter from each class teacher within the first few weeks of term explaining the Home learning system in their child's class. This will give information to parents regarding time, expectations and content of tasks.

Home learning is usually given out in two ways

- Monday to Thursday nights but not often over the weekends.
- In a 'batch' i.e. a number of tasks with a 'hand in' date a few days ahead. This is usually a system operated by teachers with older children as it allows children and parents to prioritise home learning around 'after school' activities, family events etc.

As a general guide:-

In P1 – P3 we would expect about 15mins per night spent mainly on the consolidation of reading and words done in class. Spelling, number work and pieces of research may be asked for as children become more independent in their learning towards P3.

In P4-7 we would expect home learning to average out at 20-30 minutes per 3 or 4 sessions across the week. Home learning may consist of reading, spelling, number work research or personal topics.

Children have Home/school Learning Diaries which record their home learning tasks. Please use these diaries as a means of communicating any problems to the teacher, likewise if the child is doing well a 'smiley face' or 'well done' is appreciated. Children have folders to keep their reading and home learning work organised. At busy and tiring times of the year home learning activities will be reduced to prevent children becoming overtired and stressed.

If home learning tasks become non-productive and stressful please contact the school or teacher.

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Guidelines



As part of the refresh and update of our Homework / Home Learning Policy in 2012, staff worked together to share ideas on homework, with the aim of compiling a resource which would help everyone when trying to vary homework tasks.

Tasks were split into 4 categories:

- Language: Listening and Talking / Reading / Writing / Spelling
- Maths
- Social Studies / Project
- Glow / Technologies

These tasks would not be given every week however, we would be looking to provide a breadth of experiences across all of these areas over the course of a term.

Language

Listening and Talking

- Weekly Talking Activity.
- Act out a role play at home with parents.
- Prepare a talk for the end of the week.
- Become a News reporter and practise and prepare to present your report to the class at the end of the week – sport, world news etc.
- Watch the news and discuss something that interests you with your family.
- Big Talk – linked to Big Writing – find and discuss with parents some good words or phrases which we could try to use in our writing. Find some good words or phrases in a story book or in a magazine.

Spelling

- Make / draw pictures of spelling words.
- Make the spelling words out of objects.
- Spell words out of newspaper cuttings.
- Hangman.
- Fingerspelling.
- Words in alphabetical order.
- Make other words from your spelling word.
- Make a spelling game with instructions.
- Write spelling words forwards then backwards.
- Write silly sentences using your spelling words.
- Write a story using some of the spelling words.
- Create the dictation for your spelling group – write a paragraph with some of the words.
- Summarise any newspaper report using 2 or 3 of your spelling words.
- Write sentences with your spelling words using connectives and underline the connective.
- Use your spelling word to write one short sentence, then extend the same sentence.
- Draw a picture which represents a few of your spelling words.
- Write a short poem using some of your spelling words.
- Change one letter of your spelling word to make a new word e.g. four = pour.
- Spelling City Challenges.
- Spell your words in sand / foam etc.
- Cut letters out of an old magazine and stick them together to make your spelling words.
- Create a word search or crossword.
- Play Spelling Tennis.
- Create Spelling Words Flash Cards.
- Use Scrabble tiles to spell out words.

Writing

- Many of the spelling activities can be duplicated here.
- Write about assembly and share it with parents – visitor etc.
- Help write shopping lists.
- Write instructions for a recipe or a popular task / activity at home.
- Write a book Review.
- Create a character profile for someone in their story.

Reading

- Find something you are working on in class in a paper / magazine / storybook / reading book e.g. Wow words, alliteration, use of comma in a list etc.
- Book Detective Tasks.
- Read for information and highlight important parts – summarise.
- Find unfamiliar words in newspapers, write them down and find definition.
- Create open questions to ask at reading group time (book detectives).
- Personal research using Britannica – read for info, select and compile results.

Maths

- Measuring at home using hands, feet, cm, metres depending on age / stage etc. Measure perimeter of garden, the area of rooms, the length of a bed, the volume of a mug etc.
- Use scales to find the weight of ...
- Find odd and even numbers in the house.
- Find 3D Shapes in the house and in the garden – draw and name.
- Arrange the ages of everyone in your family youngest to oldest.
- Play board games at home.
- Record the weather during the week, temperature etc.
- Use bus / train / plane timetables to plan a trip.
- Take a clock home and practise with Mum / Dad.
- Order things smallest to largest e.g. shoes.
- How many ? in your house (people, pets, beds etc.).
- Find good deals in circulars and then create your own. 3 for 2, good value etc.
- Share out things in your family – division.
- Make up sums by rolling a dice.
- Info Handling Surveys – collect info from family and friends and create graphs or other displays.
- Work out different ways to spend £2 or £10 or £100 at the shop. What could you buy and how much change?
- Count using pasta, raisins, buttons etc. Make piles of
- Top Trumps and Sudoku Puzzles.
- Card Games.
- Write a daily timetable with correct durations for each section.
- Create your own maths game e.g. multiplication game - write instructions.
- Use a catalogue and spend as close to £50 as you can.
- Poster – Show how a parent uses any aspect of maths in their job.
- Find 2D shapes in your house.
- Online Games and activities e.g. Education City.
- Create a peer challenge – questions for someone else to answer on a specific and current area of maths / numeracy.

Social Studies

- Find any relevant resources or artefacts which might be at home.
- Preparing and presenting talks.
- Accessing local / National news and current affairs on project.
- Conduct personal research using books or Internet.
- Research by asking family members what they know or if they have experiences relevant to project.
- Ask parents why they think it is important to learn about ...
- Take photos of something relevant to project in their local area e.g. houses / homes, windfarm, pylon etc.
- Junk Models.
- For and against poster showing views at home – debate etc.
- Create a roleplay sketch at home with parents.
- Prepare questions for class visitor or for each other to try.
- Find out about 1 historical person or event.
- Draw what you can see from ...
- Visiting places of interest in the local community.
- Keep a learning log of what you have learned from your project in class – share with parents.

Glow/Technologies

- Take photos and video clips.
- Send an email with Mum or Dad to someone.
- Record or listen to an audiobook.
- Create or add to a discussion in Glow.
- Draw a painting at home on the computer.
- Research using Britannica at home (Safe).
- Food / Cooking – help to make
- Online Activities and websites.
- Education City.
- Glow's National Site – Purple Mash etc.
- Use BBC News Round Website to access news or The Daily What – summarise a report.
- Peer assess each other's writing which has been uploaded to Glow.
- Add achievements to their I Can.
- Use the Snow Glow Group in Bad Weather.
- Write instructions for how to do a task in Glow.
- Add to their class learning Log in Glow.
- Explore the achievements of other classes and find something they like.
- Type up a story at home and add it / upload it to class pages document store.

- The value, benefits and overall approach from the implementation of this policy and procedures will be reviewed annually.
- Any changes will be discussed and communicated to all staff immediately.
- Consultation on this policy as draft was with Auchterellon Home School Association, Auchterellon School Parent Council, Auchterellon School and Nursery Staff (Nov.2012)

The Head Teacher at Auchterellon School welcomes feedback on this document

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