



Homework (Learning at Home) Guidance - February 2024

Homework provides our learners with the opportunity to practise and develop key skills and learning already begun in school. This policy was developed in response to a consultation with parents/carers, learners and staff.

What do we do at Avoch Primary to support learning at home?

- **Termly overviews** - every term class teachers prepare termly overviews, which indicate what will be covered that term. Under literacy and numeracy areas teachers share some ideas of how you can support your child's learning at home.
For further ideas and advice on this please see [Learning at home | Parentzone Scotland | Education Scotland](#)
- At the beginning of the school year teachers will explain how they will provide home learning activities. Every class has a Google Classroom and there will be a section for Homework activities. Teachers will specify on the Google Classroom whether children can complete tasks digitally or in another manner.

What kind of home learning activities can I expect?

All classes will use Google Classrooms to share homework activities.

Stage	Activities (these may vary but will be explained by your child's class teacher)
P1-P3	Reading (P1 when ready) - this may include reading books, reading walls, key words. Phonics/spelling – sounds/words shared weekly and ideas of activities to help learn the words will be shared.
P4-P7	Reading – at this stage the majority of children should be reading for pleasure. They should be choosing authors and genres that interest them and reading to an adult for 15 minutes at least 3 x a week. Children should also be read to by an adult. Sometimes books may be assigned using our online Bug Club subscription - teachers will share information about this if relevant. Spelling - words will be shared weekly and ideas of activities to help learn the words will be shared.
P1-P7 Maths activities	These will be put on the Google Classroom weekly and class teachers will inform you what day they will upload them (where possible this will be the same day for the whole year). These activities will be self assessed by the children and the parents. They will not be marked in school. It may not always be written work - but may be an online game/activity, or some mental maths, or could be an active activity.



Research/self-directed activities	These activities will be set on an ad hoc basis depending on what the children are learning. Class teachers will communicate with parents when these activities have been put on the Google Classroom so that you are aware there has been an additional activity.
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We are aware that many children participate in other activities after school and at weekends and time can be a challenge for families. Homework should not put extra pressures on important family time. If this is a concern then please discuss with your child's class teacher and they can suggest specific subjects to focus on depending on the needs of your child.

We want to acknowledge and celebrate that not all learning takes place in the classroom and that 'wider achievements' should be celebrated.

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), which all children follow from age 3 to 18, isn't all about classrooms and exam results. There's also an emphasis on young people's 'achievements' in the widest sense, and on the skills they need for life, learning and work. Young people acquire these in all sorts of different ways, in and out of school. Under CfE, results and qualifications (attainment) and life and work skills that come from all kinds of activities (achievement) are equally important.

As a parent, one of the best ways you can help your child is to encourage them to learn new things, and to be proud of what they can do.

[wider_achievement_1906_E2.pdf \(npfs.org.uk\)](https://www.npfs.org.uk/wider_achievement_1906_E2.pdf)

There is a huge amount of learning that takes place in family activities, baking, playing board games, trips out in the local community, making things at home, spending time with friends and family, etc. Please continue to do these valuable activities and we enjoy hearing about them in school.

Learners' Role	Parent/Carer's Role	School's Role
<p>Complete any tasks to their best ability.</p> <p>Talk to adults at home and/or in school they are finding things challenging.</p> <p>Be ready to discuss their learning with adults at home and share in school when necessary.</p>	<p>Ensure that you have access to your child's Google Classroom.</p> <p>Ask the children about what they have been learning in school - the Google Classroom and termly overview can help prompt discussions.</p> <p>Play word/number games regularly to consolidate learning.</p> <p>Regularly read to and listen to your child reading. Encourage your child to choose books that they find interesting.</p> <p>Go over any work that your child has completed at home and discuss this with them.</p>	<p>Provide a termly overview to share key learning for the term and how parents can support their children at home.</p> <p>Provide guidance and information on how homework can be accessed.</p> <p>Ensure that homework reinforces in school learning</p> <p>To support parents if they have any concerns about the activities or their child's learning.</p>



Why will homework not be marked by the teacher?

When taking into consideration the research around homework in Primary Schools (see below) and the academic gain it has for individual children, I have to ensure that teacher's time focuses on providing high quality learning, teaching and assessment in school.

'research that combines and analyses the findings of a number of studies – suggest that homework has little or no positive benefit for the academic achievement of children of primary school age.'

[Primary school children get little academic benefit from homework | University of Hull](#)

Homework is an extension/reinforcement of the skills that they are learning in the classroom. For maths in particular, it is likely that the teacher has already corrected a similar activity in the classroom and has used this to assess progress. Activities completed at home would ideally be discussed with an adult. Some homework activities, such as IDL research projects, will be discussed with children in group/whole class situations and children will share their learning with others.

If you are concerned about your child's ability to complete tasks then please contact the school avoch.primary@highland.gov.uk to discuss this further with the class teacher.