Home Learning at Ratho Primary School

August 2022

Rationale

Home learning is a partnership between home and school and gives an opportunity for you as parent or carer to be involved in your child's education. As well as home learning tasks provided by school, there are many other ways that parents can support and enrich their child's learning. Talking to your child about the news, visiting places of interest, going for a walk, cooking, reading and shopping are just some examples of practical and valuable learning experiences.

Aims of Home Learning

Home learning is given for a variety of purposes. Home learning provides an additional way of supporting and consolidating your child's learning. Home learning gives parents and carers an insight into the learning that is happening in the classroom. Home learning also gives parents and carers feedback on where their child is on their learning journey.

Home learning provides opportunities for the **development of skills** for future careers and life skills.

Pupils are given the chance to develop:

- Communication
- Employability
- Problem Solving
- Working with Others
- Self-Awareness
- Digital skills

Types of Home Learning

The table below gives an overview of the home learning tasks that will be provided each week.

These activities are linked to our 'recovery curriculum' where the focus is on literacy, numeracy and health & wellbeing.

Nursery	Suggestions for learning at home linked to current topics		
Primary 1	Literacy task		
Primary 2	Literacy task	Numeracy task	
Primary 3-7	Literacy task	Numeracy task	Another Curricular Area task

How will home learning be provided?

Home learning will be provided in Primary 1 – Primary 7 by sending home details of the tasks in the learner's school bags on Mondays.

In some cases class teachers may direct learners to access or submit home learning via Microsoft Teams. This is a digital platform that allows the 'Team', in this case the class, to submit home learning digitally and get feedback from their peers and teacher.

Children will receive a login to Microsoft 365 which can be used to access all of the Microsoft 365 features including their class Team.

The children can log in to their Microsoft Office 365 account from any device using the following web site: https://digitallearningteam.org/ then select the 'Learners' tab and then 'Office 365 login'.

Class teachers will guide children in accessing their home learning and we will provide materials to families in supporting the children. Families that feel they need support for home learning for their children should get in touch via the school office to find out more about our Home Learning Club. Places in our Home Learning Club are limited. admin@ratho.edin.sch.uk

What devices support Microsoft Teams?

Teams can be accessed on mobile devices such as smart phones and tablets. Many mobile devices support the Microsoft Teams app which can be downloaded through the device's app store. Laptop and desktop computers can also be used to access Teams and this can be done through the internet browser or through an app similar to that available on a mobile device.

Time for Home Learning

Home learning activities will be issued weekly by class teachers, except for the first and last weeks of terms, or short weeks (those with Monday holidays). This is in direct response to parent feedback on how feasible it is to complete tasks on these weeks.

It is difficult to set limits of time for home learning as some children will naturally take longer than others to complete tasks. As a rough guide:

- Primary 1 and 2 children may spend between 10-15 minutes per day on their home learning.
- Children in Primary 3, 4 and 5 should spend around 1 hour per week on their home learning.
- Children in Primary 6 and 7 should spend around 1 hour and 30 minutes per week on their home learning.

Extra-curricular clubs are also home learning. Many of our pupils take part in learning experiences out of school e.g. Cubs, swimming lessons, football, gymnastics etc. and these are included in 'home learning'. School staff will support this, and if there is a particularly busy week, a note from a parent or carer explaining this will suffice. Likewise, there is nothing stopping families doing additional home learning activities.

Home learning tasks will be issued on a Monday. Again, as fed back by our parent body, some families require the weekend to complete these, therefore we ask that work set by class teachers on a Monday is completed and submitted by **the following Monday.**

If your child is particularly distressed about a home learning task, **it is not necessary to continue-** please discuss with your child's class teacher.

Home Learning Environment

Pupils' approaches to home learning will differ and it is important that individual pupils are able to work in an environment that works for them. For some this will mean working in peace and quiet, possibly in their own room, whilst others may work more effectively in the company of others.

What else can I do to support my child's home learning?

In addition to being there to help your child with the home learning set by the school, reading with and to your child is always a great thing to do! This helps to develop vocabulary, comprehension, fluency and help with a love of books.

Quick quizzes of maths calculations: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, types of 2D and 3D shapes, different angles, compass directions, telling the time – these are all helpful in keeping the children's mathematical knowledge fresh. Keep these quick, fun and light hearted.

Developing a good general knowledge of the world around them is important for children. Talking with an adult about how the world works, names of places, animals, objects etc can help to unlock meaning and master new skills.

Ratho Primary School learning links

Our Learning Links You Tube channel also has quick activities to support learning at home as well as explain some of the key approaches we use in school.

You can subscribe for regular updates here
https://www.youtube.com/c/RathoPrimarySchoolLearningLinks/featured

Feedback on Home Learning

Quality feedback will be given to home learning tasks in a variety of ways. E.g. verbal feedback, peer feedback, written feedback. This should help your child establish what they can do well and what they need to do to improve.

Helping your child with home learning: Frequently Asked Questions

How will I know what my child has to do?

- Your child's home learning will be sent home on a Monday. In some cases class teachers may direct the learners to an online activity on Microsoft Teams, Sumdog or other online learning platforms.

How regularly will Home Learning be monitored?

- Our class teachers are busy teaching classes each day and spend time before and after preparing lessons, marking work, reflecting on their practice, attending professional learning courses, among the many other duties that are asked of them. Each class teacher will identify time in the week to give feedback on home learning where appropriate. Some of this feedback may be in person during the school day or from peers. This feedback may not always be in the form of a written comment. Certain activities will be automatically corrected e.g. Sumdog challenges.

Should I make changes to my child's work?

- As home learning is a partnership between school and home, it is helpful to point out to your child if they have made a mistake and for your child to rectify it there and then. If you feel that your child is showing significant misunderstanding of the work then please drop an email to admin@ratho.edin.sch.uk FAO (Your child's class teacher) and this will help our teaching staff to address any misconceptions in your child's learning.

How much help should I give?

- Every child is different and the level of support that each child needs varies. Support your child where you can. If you feel you cannot support your child, please contact the class teacher. As children become older we would hope that they can become more independent with their home learning and showing good study skills e.g. managing their time well, organising their space, taking regular brain breaks, keeping hydrated etc.

What if my child doesn't have access to a computer?

- Please get in touch with the school to discuss possible options

What should I do if any circumstances have prevented home learning from being completed?

- A simple note via email into your child's class teacher is appreciated.

We are going on holiday during term time – can my child get extra home learning tasks?

- It is the policy of the education authority to strongly discourage holidays during term time. Home learning will not be provided in advance of absence and children will be expected to catch up on their return to school. *Class teachers are under no obligation to provide catch-up home or school learning tasks.*