

Family Learning Newsletter



Term 3
April 2020

Our Values:

Responsible

Kindness

Respect

Family Learning encourages family members to learn together as and within a family, with a focus on intergenerational learning. Family learning activities can also be specifically designed to enable parents to learn how to support their children's learning.

'Family learning is a powerful method of engagement and learning which can foster positive attitudes towards life-long learning, promote socio-economic resilience and challenge educational disadvantage'.

(Scottish Family Learning Network, 2016)

Who leads Family Learning and who is it for?

Family Learning is led by Mrs Laura Coyle (Family Learning Assistant) and Mr Martyn Glancy (Acting Depute Head Teacher).

Family Learning is open to, and we would encourage all families, to participate. We appreciate time commitments can make engagement difficult but would actively encourage all families to become involved. Sometimes, sessions are bespoke to the needs of our families. St Machan's is your community and its strength comes from your engagement!



What is Family Learning?

It is an opportunity for pupils to learn alongside members of their family. Some things are taught differently to when you attended school so it is important that you know how to support your child's learning at home to enable them to be the best that they can be!

Why should we get involved in Family Learning?

Family Learning enhances learning for your child and improves outcomes. It's that simple! A joined up approach is important. Perhaps it's learning about internet safety with your child. Maybe you are unsure about numeracy or literacy or require health and wellbeing support. We can help.

A parent is the main educator.
A child spends 85% of their time at home or in the community.



Where and when does Family Learning take place?

Currently, you will be completing tasks as a family at home, this is Family Learning. Each task you complete at home as a family can be considered family learning. For example, you may have learned how to use Microsoft TEAMS recently during the last few weeks. Using this daily is a new skill that you and your child have learned so WELL DONE!



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Home Learning Advice

Family Learning Sessions

Whilst we provide lots of sessions during school, at this current time we want to support you at home. Mrs Coyle will be posting a family learning activity once a week. Each task will be posted on **TEAMS in FAMILY LEARNING every Monday at 10am.** This is an opportunity for you to break up your week with a family learning activity. We would really like to see your pictures!

Reading Advice

Reading is a great activity to do with your child. Here are a few strategies to help you with this:

- Model reading to your child. This may be a page or two from their book.
- If they can't read a word encourage them to sound the word out e.g. c-a-t / c-at / cat.
- If stuck at a word then encourage your child to look at the pictures. The pictures can provide you a clue to the word.
- Read everyday whether it's for enjoyment or provided by the teacher



Maths Advice

Numbers are all around us in our world. All pupils learn at different rates and the follow may be helpful:

- Use items to help your child count.
- Write down your working. It can help you see where you made a mistake.
- If your child is unsure of how to solve a problem, that's ok. They may not remember or have learned it yet. That's ok. If you can't help them simply move on to the next question.
- Practice number bonds, times tables regularly!



General Advice for Parents

A few simple pointers to help you whilst completing work at home.

- Have a clear structure to your day. Be clear about this with your child at the beginning of the day. E.g. 9am Joe Wicks, 10am Maths activity.
- If the task lasts 15 minutes then that is ok!
- Ensure that children and adults have time for a break between tasks. This could be to play, for fresh air or for a snack.
- **Use Microsoft TEAMS! You can ask any questions here. Teachers are here to help!**
- **Learning at home is difficult so just do your best!**

Useful Links to Support Families at Home

EDC clothing grant/ free meals vouchers— <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/grants/school-clothing-grant>

Play Scotland—<https://www.playScotland.org/>

Parent Club Scotland— <https://www.parentclub.scot/>

Parent Zone Scotland—<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone>

NHS mental health support— <http://www.headsup.scot/>

One parent families - <https://opfs.org.uk/>

Breathing Space— <https://breathingspace.scot/>

If you require further information about our Family Learning Programme please contact the school office on 0141 955 2205 or email office@stmachans.e-dunbarton.sch.uk.

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